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Tuesday, June 1, 2021

Today's headlines:

- [White House releases FY 2022 budget request](#)
- [Goal and campaign launch set for IHA PAC](#)
- [State agencies plan services alignment](#)
- [SUNRx offers exclusive 340B webinar series to IHA members](#)

White House releases FY 2022 budget request

President Biden has submitted to Congress his budget request for fiscal year 2022. The budget primarily includes proposals from President Biden's American Jobs Plan and American Families Plan.

The budget request is not binding but can act as a guide for Congress and the Administration as they debate health care issues this year. The budget includes a discussion of certain health care policies, such as a public option, lowering the Medicare eligibility age to 60, reducing the costs of prescription drugs and expanding coverage in non-Medicaid expansion states through a Medicaid-like federal public option, but does not include details on these proposals or their fiscal impact.

In addition, the budget says that "evidence shows that we can reform Medicare payments to insurers and certain providers to reduce overpayments and strengthen incentives to deliver value-based care, extending the life of the Medicare Trust Fund, lowering premiums for beneficiaries and reducing Federal costs."

Specific highlights of provisions affecting hospitals and health systems include:

- **Discretionary spending.** The budget calls for \$1.5 trillion for appropriated spending in FY 2022, including \$769 billion for domestic programs, a 16% increase over last year's level. The budget proposes nearly \$134 billion for HHS, a 23% increase over last year's enacted level. This includes:
 - 340B Drug Pricing Program. \$17 million to support program integrity oversight and to establish an administrative dispute resolution process for claims disputes between 340B covered entities and drug manufacturers. In addition, the Health Resources and Services Administration requests general rulemaking authority over the operation of the 340B program and proposes reporting requirements of covered entities to ensure net income is used for the covered entities' low-income and uninsured patients.
 - Behavioral health and substance use. \$9.5 billion for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration programs, including \$1.6 billion for the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant. The budget also includes \$10.7 billion in discretionary funding for the opioid epidemic and other substance use issues.
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. \$8.7 billion in discretionary funding.
 - Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education. \$350 million.
 - Food and Drug Administration. \$6.5 billion.
 - Hospital Preparedness Program. \$292 million.

- o Maternal and Child Health Block Grant. \$592 million to states to expand health care and public health services that benefit women, infants and children.
- o National Institutes of Health. \$51 billion, including \$6.5 billion for a new advanced research projects agency-health.
- o Nursing Workforce Development. \$268 million.
- o Rural health care. \$400 million for rural health programs under the Health Resources and Services Administration.
- o Strategic National Stockpile. \$905 million.
- **Health equity and maternal mortality.** The budget includes several sources of new funding to address health equity and racial disparity in health care. This includes \$3 billion over five years to invest in maternal health, reduce the maternal mortality rate and end race-based disparities in maternal mortality.
- **Health insurance coverage.** The budget calls for making permanent the marketplace subsidy expansions temporarily enacted as part of the American Rescue Plan signed into law and proposed by the Administration to be extended in the American Families Plan. These provisions reduce the cost of marketplace coverage for subsidy-eligible people and families by increasing the dollar value of premium tax credit subsidies and expanding eligibility to people with incomes above 400% of the federal poverty level. The 10-year cost of this is estimated at \$163 billion.
- **Infrastructure.** As part of the community health and hospital resilience portion of the American Jobs Plan, the budget proposes \$1 billion to increase support for hospital infrastructure, \$250 million for health emergency preparedness and \$250 million to build resilience against climate effects.
- **Pandemic preparedness.** The budget proposes \$6 billion in new mandatory funding for HHS in FY 2022, as part of a multi-department four-year program totaling \$30 billion to prepare for pandemics.
- **Provider payments.** The budget doesn't reflect any reductions in Medicare or Medicaid payments to health care providers.



Goal and campaign launch set for IHA PAC

Hospital leaders on the IHA PAC Committee recently met and voted to approve a campaign goal of \$125,000. The intent in lowering this year's goal is to smash it and surpass it and have a "win" to build momentum to get the campaign monies growing for the next election cycle in 2022. Last year's [annual report](#) details hospital and individual contributions as well as campaign contributions.

The campaign formally kick-offs this week at the [IHA Tee-Off Golf Classic](#) event. The 2021 PAC campaign information and sample campaign materials also are being mailed this week to each IHA member CEO. The mailing includes the hospital's goal, solicitation rules and tips for running a successful campaign.

Special thanks to [Chuck Nordyke, CEO of Clarinda Regional Health Center](#), for his \$1,000 Ben Franklin Club contribution last month. He's the first hospital CEO to contribute to this year's campaign. Personal checks can be mailed to IHA PAC, c/o Iowa Hospital Association or donors can contribute online at <https://my.ihaonline.org/Donate-PAC>. Direct questions about the IHA PAC to [Becky Anthony](#) at 515-288-1955, ext. 316.



State agencies plan services alignment

The Iowa Department of Public Health and the Iowa Department of Human Services [have announced](#) steps to align the two agencies' wide-ranging services under a single health and human services organization.

Over the next nine months, the agencies will work with Public Consulting Group to identify shared program goals and align programs, practices and policies to improve delivery of services and better leverage funding opportunities.

Both agencies have been led by Kelly Garcia since June 2020, when Gov. Kim Reynolds named Garcia as interim director of IDPH besides her role as director of DHS.

As part of the alignment process, IDPH and DHS will identify community-based stakeholders to provide input and guidance on the departments' programmatic and policy efforts. The agencies also will create an organizational structure that optimizes delivery of services, supports efficiency for staff, and integrates the departments' programs and services with community resources.

SUNRx offers exclusive 340B webinar series to IHA members

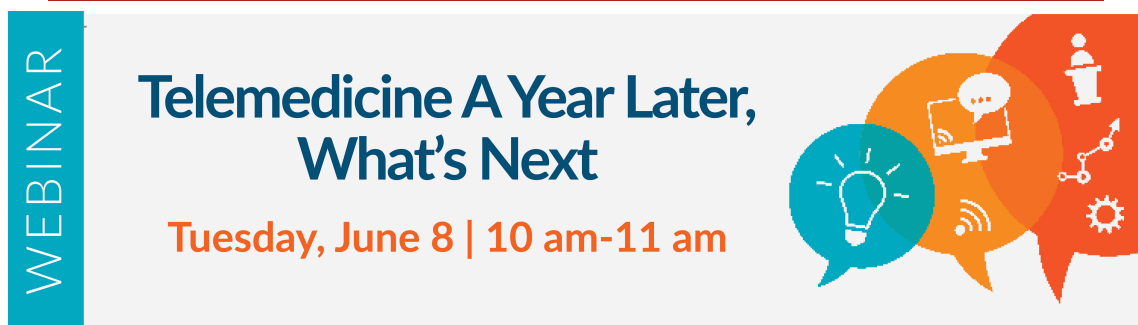
Optimizing 340B Specialty Pharmacy, an exclusive webinar provided by ServiShare partner SUNRx, is scheduled from **1-2 pm Thursday, June 3.**

As the specialty pharmaceutical industry continues to grow, opportunities exist for significant savings to 340B program. The need to optimize 340B savings is greater now considering the manufacturer constraints that have complicated the program.

In this session, SUNRx will share insights to consider with developing a 340B specialty pharmacy strategy. Topics covered include:

- Navigating the complexities of specialty pharmacy.
- Reasons for considering 340B specialty contract pharmacy relations.
- Specialty pharmacy growth and opportunities for savings.

Click [HERE](#) to register.



NewsStand

Iowa news

- [Opinion: To mask or not to mask? The answer isn't simple right now.](#)
- [Workplaces have important role to play in employee mental health](#)
- [Bumpy road ahead in shift on mental health care funding](#)

National news

- [Scripps' EHR back online nearly four weeks after ransomware attack](#)
- [Employers can \(mostly\) require vaccines for office workers](#)
- [Campaign calls for comprehensive student mental health plans](#)

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Upcoming events

- [IHA Tee Off Golf Classic](#): Thursday, June 3.
- [NOONS IN JUNE: A Summer Leadership Forum Virtual Series](#): Thursday, June 3-Thursday, June 24.
- [Telemedicine a Year Later: What's Next?](#): Tuesday, June 8.
- [Behavioral Affiliate of Iowa Conference Series](#): Friday, June 11-Friday, July 23.
- [Hospital Regulatory Webinar Series: Swing-bed Fundamentals](#): Tuesday, June 22.
- [2021 CPHQ Virtual Conference](#): Wednesday, July 21.
- [2021 Iowa Quality Residency Program](#): Thursday, Oct. 21-Friday, April 8.

Hospital jobs site connects hospitals with qualified candidates

Are you looking for qualified health care professionals for your Iowa hospital? [HospitalCareers.com](#) can help. This website connects thousands of nurses, providers and other hospital jobseekers with Iowa hospitals each year and is a main resource for jobseekers looking for work in health care.



Your resource for Iowa hospital and health system jobs.

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