

Impact Health Policy Weekly

Framing the Week

The House and Senate are both in session today as the President releases his Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 budget request. The budget request kicks off the start of the FY 2025 budget process, just days after six of the 12 FY 2024 appropriations bills were finally enacted. Included with the first six appropriations bills that was enacted was a long awaited, but slimmed down, healthcare package ([IHPP summary](#)). The largest of the FY 2024 bills, including the Labor-HHS and Department of Defense bills are still on a continuing resolution until March 22.

The FY 2025 budget request is expected to prioritize several health care issues that the President highlighted in his State of the Union speech last Thursday ([IHPP summary](#)) including lower prescription drug costs in Medicare and private health insurance, making permanent expanded premium tax credits for Marketplace coverage, a \$12 billion investment in women's health research, expanded Medicaid coverage, mental health care, and several other priorities. The White House released a fact sheet of [health policy proposals](#) ahead of the State of the Union address. Impact Health Policy Partners will send out a summary of the full budget request later today.

Hearings and Markups

Senate Budget Committee: On Tuesday the Senate Budget Committee will hold a [hearing](#) to examine the President's proposed budget request for FY 2025 with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Shalanda Young.

Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee: On Tuesday the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee will hold a [hearing](#) to examine proposals to address housing affordability, availability, and other community needs.

House Ways and Means Committee: Also on Tuesday, the House Ways and Means Committee will [hold](#) a hearing to examine opportunities and challenges in enhancing access to care in patients' homes and modernizing care in rural and underserved communities.

House Energy & Commerce Committee: On Tuesday, the House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee on Health will hold a [markup](#) of 19 health related bills. Among the bills being marked up are [H.R. 620](#), the Alzheimer's Accountability and Investment Act, [H.R. 7218](#), Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act of 2024, and [H.R. 7153](#), the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Reauthorization Act.

Senate Finance Committee: On Thursday the Senate Finance Committee will hold a [hearing](#) to examine the President's proposed budget request for FY 2025 for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) with the HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra.

Regulatory Update

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is reviewing the following rules:

Medicare

- **Alternative Payment Models** – The [proposed rule](#) would implement a new Medicare payment model titled, Increasing Organ Transplant Access (IOTA) Model (was set for December 2023).
- **Payment Update** – The proposed rules would make policy payment updates for [acute care hospitals inpatient and long-term care hospitals](#), [hospice](#), [inpatient psychiatric facilities](#), [skilled nursing facilities](#), and [inpatient rehabilitation facilities](#) (April 2024).
- **Nursing Homes** – The [final rule](#) would establish minimum staffing standards for long-term care facilities and establish Medicaid institutional payment transparency reporting requirements (September 2026).

Medicaid

- **Disproportionate Share Hospital Program** – The [final rule](#) would implement requirements under section 203 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (CAA), which relate to Medicaid shortfall and third-party payments (February 2024).
- **Eligibility and Enrollment** – The [final rule](#) would implement changes to align enrollment and renewal requirements for most individuals in Medicaid and promote maintenance of coverage (February 2024).
- **Access to Care** – A pair of final rule intended to access to care and quality outcomes for Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries enrolled in [managed care delivery systems](#) and [fee-for-service Medicaid](#) (April 2024).

Commercial Insurance

- **ACA Marketplace** – The [final rule](#) would make changes to regulations governing Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplace plans, insurance standards, and the risk adjustment program for plan year 2025 (not specified but likely April 2024).
- **Short-Term Plans** – The [final rule](#) would modify definitions to ensure short-term, limited duration insurance and fixed indemnity benefits coverage do not undermine consumer protections and requirements under the Affordable Care Act (April 2024).

Other Topics:

- **Healthcare System Resiliency and Modernization** – The [proposed rule](#) would revise and update national emergency preparedness requirements for Medicare- and Medicaid-participating providers and suppliers (was set for December 2023).
- **Reproductive Health Care Privacy** – The [final rule](#) would modify the HIPAA Privacy Rule to support reproductive health care privacy (March 2024).

- **Health IT** – The [proposed rule](#) would advance interoperability through proposals for: standards adoption; public health IT certification; expanded uses of certified application programming interfaces (APIs), such as for electronic prior authorization, patient engagement, care management, and care coordination; and information sharing under the information blocking regulations (was set for November 2023).

This Week in Health Policy

Tue. (3/12)

- **10:00am – Hearing: Housing Affordability** – The Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee holds a hearing to examine proposals to address housing affordability, availability, and other community needs. [Details.](#)
- **10:15am – Hearing: President’s Budget Request for FY 2025** – The Senate Budget Committee holds a hearing to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year (FY) 2025 with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Shalanda Young. [Details.](#)
- **11:00am – Hearing: Rural and Underserved Communities Home Care Access** – The House Ways and Means Committee holds a hearing to examine opportunities and challenges in enhancing access to care in patients’ homes and modernizing care in rural and underserved communities. [Details.](#)
- **1:00pm – Urban Institute Discussion: Biden-Harris Administration’s Housing Policy Agenda** – The Urban Institute holds a discussion with Dr. Lael Brainard, White House National Economic Advisor, on proposals to ease the burden of housing costs for American families. [Details.](#)

Wed. (3/13)

- **11:00am – NIH Meeting: Cancer Institute Clinical/Translational Research** – The National Institutes of Health (NIH) holds a meeting of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) for strategic discussion of NCI's clinical and translational research programs. [Details.](#)
- **12:00pm – Politico Summit: Annual Health Care Summit** – Politico holds its 2024 Health Care Summit to discuss the future of medicine, including the latest in health tech, new drugs and brain treatment, health equity, workforce strains, and more. Speakers include Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Reps. Robin Kelly (D-IL) and Brad Wenstrup (R-OH). [Details.](#)
- **3:00pm – Purchaser Business Group Summit: Health Care Affordability** – The Purchaser Business Group on Health and the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions hold the 2024 Health Policy Summit on "The Healthcare Cost Breaking Policy Solutions for Affordability." HHS Chief Competition Officer Stacy Sanders will be participating. [Details.](#)

Thurs. (3/14)

- **10:00am – Hearing: President’s HHS Budget Request for FY 2025** – The Senate Finance Committee holds a hearing to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year (FY) 2025 for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) with the HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra. [Details.](#)
- **11:15am – AHRQ Meeting: Health Care Research/Quality Updates** – The Agency For Healthcare Research and Quality holds a virtual meeting of the National Advisory Council for

Healthcare Research and Quality for updates on the Subcommittee of the National Advisory Council for AHRQ's Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Trust Fund investments, the 20th anniversary of Digital Healthcare, an update on the National Action Alliance to Advance Patient and Workforce Safety and a discussion on diagnostic safety. [Details.](#)

Additional Multi-Day Events

- **Mar. 14-Mar. 15 – HRSA Meeting: Nursing Workforce Issues** – The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) holds a meeting of the National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice for the nursing workforce (e.g., nursing shortage, distribution, supply, and access) nursing practice improvement, nursing education, nursing work environment and support, and other Title VIII program activities. [Details.](#)

Featured Analysis

- **Impact Roundup of January Behavioral Health Actions** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here.](#)
- **Impact Chart of Key Provisions of Legislative Proposals on Health Care Price Transparency Requirements** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here.](#)
- **Impact Regulatory Outlook: Fall 2023 Unified Agenda** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here.](#)
- **Impact Mental Health Legislative Update** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here.](#)
- **Impact Artificial Intelligence Policy Round Up** – In the Policy Hub Insight Bank [here.](#)

Congressional Lookback

Fri. (3/8)

- **Congress** passed a [health care package](#) to reauthorize several programs, restore cuts to Medicare payments for physicians, and eliminate scheduled DSH cuts. [Details.](#)
- **MedPAC** held day two of its [March 2024 public meeting](#) and held a session on the Medicare Hospital at Home program. All Impact sessions summaries are available in Policy Hub [here.](#)
- **MACPAC** convened virtually for day two of its [March 2024 public meeting](#) and held a session on state Medicaid approaches for covering health-related social needs. All Impact session summaries are available on Policy Hub [here.](#)

Thurs. (3/7)

- **President Biden** highlighted some of his [health policy proposals](#) for the upcoming year in his third [State of the Union Address.](#) [Details.](#)
- **MedPAC** held day one of its [March 2024 public meeting](#) and held sessions on rural hospitals and Medicare Advantage encounter data and quality. All Impact sessions summaries are available in Policy Hub [here.](#)

- **MACPAC** convened virtually for day one of its [March 2024 public meeting](#) and held sessions on transparency and physician-administered drugs. All Impact session summaries are available on Policy Hub [here](#).
- **The Senate HELP Committee** issued a [request for information \(RFI\)](#) from stakeholders on the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA). Responses are due March 21. [Details](#).

Weds. (3/6)

- **The Senate Budget Committee** convened a [hearing](#) to discuss how primary care can make the health care system more efficient. [Details](#).
- **The House Ways & Means Committee** convened a [full committee markup](#) of three bills on nursing home staffing, kidney care, and a real-time benefits tool for Medicare Part D. [Details](#).

Regulatory Lookback

Thurs. (3/7)

- **CMMI** released the manufacturer [request for applications \(RFA\)](#) for the [Cell and Gene Therapy Access Model](#). Applications are due May 1. [Details](#).
- **HHS OCCHE** held a [presentation](#) to discuss the Office's Catalytic Program on Utilizing the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). [Details](#).

Tues. (3/5)

- **The FTC, DOJ, and HHS** jointly issued a [request for information \(RFI\)](#) to inform the agencies' identification of enforcement priorities and future actions, including new regulations, aimed at promoting competition in health care markets and ensuring appropriate access to quality, affordable health care items and services. Comments are due May 6. [Details](#).
- **HHS** released a [statement](#) recognizing the impact on health care operations of the cybersecurity incident affecting Change Healthcare, a unit of UnitedHealth Group (UHG), which occurred in late February. [Details](#).

Mon. (3/4)

- **The DOJ** issued an [advance notice of proposed rulemaking](#) in response to the Executive Order of February 28, 2024, titled "Preventing Access to Americans' Bulk Sensitive Personal Data and United States Government-Related Data by Countries of Concern." Comments are due April 19. [Details](#).

Comment & Application Deadlines

- **March 15:** The USPSTF issued a [request for nominations](#) to serve as members of the Task Force. [Details](#).

- **March 15:** The House Ed and Workforce Committee issued a [request for information \(RFI\)](#) to inform legislative reforms to employer-sponsored health care. [Details.](#)
- **March 16:** CMS issued [draft part two guidance](#) on select topics of the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan. [Details.](#)
- **March 21:** The Senate HELP Committee issued a [request for information \(RFI\)](#) from stakeholders on the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA). [Details.](#)
- **March 22:** AHRQ EHC Program has an opportunity to support the development of a review entitled, “[Evidence Map on Home and Community-Based Services](#)”. [Details.](#)
- **March 22:** HRSA [announced](#) \$8,750,000 for the Behavioral Health Integration (BHI) Evidence Based Telehealth Network Program (EB-TNP) grant program. [Details.](#)
- **March 25:** The USPSTF is requesting comment on a [draft recommendation statement](#) and draft evidence review on screening and supplementation for iron deficiency during pregnancy. [Details.](#)
- **March 28:** The NIH, through the Office of AIDS Research, issued an [RFI](#) to solicit input for the development of the FY 2026–2030 NIH Strategic Plan for HIV and HIV-Related Research. [Details.](#)
- **April 1:** The Senate 340B Bipartisan Working Group released a [discussion draft](#) for the SUSTAIN 340B Act. [Details.](#)
- **April 2:** HRSA announced a [notice of funding opportunity](#) under the State Maternal Health Innovation program. [Details.](#)
- **April 12:** SAMHSA [announced](#) \$9,995,000 for the Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) grant program. [Details.](#)
- **April 15:** CMS released a [proposed rule](#) to strengthen oversight of accrediting organizations (AOs) by addressing conflicts of interest, establishing consistent standards, and updating the validation and performance systems. [Details.](#)
- **April 15:** SAMHSA [announced](#) \$5,400,000 for states and territories under the Provider’s Clinical Support System grant program. [Details.](#)
- **April 15:** The FTC and HHS issued an [RFI](#) regarding market concentration among large health care group purchasing organizations (GPOs) and drug wholesalers. [Details.](#)
- **April 19:** The DOJ issued an [advance notice of proposed rulemaking](#) in response to the Executive Order of February 28, 2024, titled “Preventing Access to Americans’ Bulk Sensitive Personal Data and United States Government-Related Data by Countries of Concern.” [Details.](#)
- **April 29:** CMS issued [final part one guidance](#) on a select set of topics for the Medicare Prescription Payment Plan and an [ICR](#) for model materials. [Details.](#)
- **May 1:** CMMI released the manufacturer [request for applications \(RFA\)](#) for the [Cell and Gene Therapy Access Model](#). Applications are due May 1. [Details.](#)
- **May 6:** The FTC, DOJ, and HHS jointly issued a [request for information \(RFI\)](#) to inform the agencies’ identification of enforcement priorities and future actions, including new regulations, aimed at promoting competition in health care markets and ensuring appropriate access to quality, affordable health care items and services. [Details.](#)

