

## SHARE Grantee Newsletter - May 18, 2010

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### News from Grantees

#### Implementation of Dependent Coverage Expansion Moving Forward

SHARE grantees Joel Cantor and Alan Monheit were cited in the new rules released by the Department of Health and Human Services regarding implementation of the new dependent coverage provisions included in federal health reform. The [newly released rules](#) acknowledge Cantor and Monheit's findings on the early experience in states that have extended coverage to dependents suggesting that few uninsured children in these states shift to their parents' policy.

The citation came from Cantor's presentation at the AcademyHealth State Interest Group Meeting in 2009, "[State Policies Expanding Dependent Coverage to Young Adults in Private Health Insurance Plans](#)."

[View rules on implementation of dependent coverage provisions](#)

[View Joel Cantor's presentation at the 2009 AcademyHealth Interest Group Meeting](#)

A full discussion of this issue can be found in our recently posted webinar, "[The Impact of Extending Dependent Insurance Coverage to Young Adults](#)," which featured presentations by Dr. Cantor and Troy Oechsner, Deputy Superintendent of Health for the State of New York. Dr. Cantor discussed findings from his analysis of dependent coverage expansions in 18 states, and discussant Troy Oechsner provided a state perspective on dependent coverage expansion initiatives, outlining efforts currently being implemented in New York State.

[View the Dependent Coverage Expansions webinar](#)

The Internal Revenue Service has also released guidelines regarding the taxation of these benefits as they relate to cafeteria plans. The [IRS notice](#) clarifies that employers offering cafeteria plans can begin making pre-tax salary reduction contributions in order to provide coverage for children under the age of 27.

[View the IRS Guidelines](#)

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## SHARE and SHADAC News

### SHARE Breakfast at AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting

SHARE will be hosting a breakfast for grantees at the Annual Research Meeting for AcademyHealth in Boston, Massachusetts.

#### SHARE Grantee Breakfast

Monday, June 28th

8:00 - 9:00 AM

Exeter Room, Sheraton - 3rd Floor

Please RSVP to Elizabeth Lukanen at [elukanen@umn.edu](mailto:elukanen@umn.edu).

### SHARE Director Lynn Blewett Quoted in Article about High Risk Pools

Lynn Blewett provided information to local media on Minnesota's existing high risk pool and provided commentary on Governor Pawlenty's decision to opt out of the national high-risk pool created under federal health care reform. Read the article from [wcco.com](http://wcco.com), "[Pawlenty Opts Minn. Out Of High-Risk Health Pool](#)."

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## Federal Reform News

### States Respond to Federal High-Risk Pool

April 30th marked the deadline for states to respond to [Secretary Sebelius' inquiry](#) about participation in a federal high-risk pool program that was established as part of the new health insurance reform law.

The program, for which federal funding starts July 1st, will be available to all Americans meeting the eligibility criteria until January 1st, 2014 when health insurance exchanges are set to go live. SHARE has created a table outlining which states are currently operating their own high-risk pool and which states are participating in the federal high-risk program ([Click here to view the High-Risk Pools table](#)).

SHADAC's Director, Dr. Lynn Blewett, contributed to a recent *Health Affairs* blog with Courtney Bourke, "[All High-Risk Pools Are Not Equal: Examining The Minnesota Model](#)." For more information on state high-risk pools, read SHADAC's issue brief, "[State High-Risk Pools: An Overview](#)."

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## State Reform News

### Colorado Estimates 200,000 Newly Eligible for Medicaid

The Colorado Health Institute (CHI) has released an issue brief, "[Health Insurance Coverage Among Low-Income Adults in Colorado](#)," detailing the impact of state and federal health reforms on uninsured working-age adults (ages 19-64) in Colorado. Using the 2008 American Community Survey, CHI estimates that more than 27,000 parents and 119,000 childless adults in Colorado will become eligible for Medicaid. After the full implementation of the federal health reform expansions, an additional 24,000 parents and 29,000 childless adults will become eligible. [View the CHI Issue Brief](#)

### New Report Finds Data Matching to Determine Citizenship is Easing Burdens on States and Enrollees

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities has released a new report, "[New Citizenship Documentation Option for Medicaid and CHIP is Up and Running](#)." The report finds that to date, of the 24 states that have chosen to use the data-match with the Social Security Administration's (SSA) database as fulfillment for the requirement to reduce laborious citizen documentation paperwork as outlined in the Children's Health Insurance Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA), many find it eases the burden on applicants that are U.S. citizens.

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## RWJF Coverage Team News

### HealthreformGPS.org Launched

At the end of April the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Hirsh Health Law and Policy Program at George Washington University released [www.healthreformGPS.org](http://www.healthreformGPS.org), a website dedicated to analyzing and explaining the implementation of federal health reform. The web portal provides comprehensive information about the legislation, its interpretation and the process of implementation including levels of responsibility and timelines. It also contains helpful links to news feeds, key documents and expert commentaries.

### NASHP Webinar on May 25th

The National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP), Robert Wood Johnson Foundation,

and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation are hosting a webinar on May 25th titled, "It's a Match! Early State Success with SSA Data Matching for Citizenship Documentation."

[Register for the NASHP webinar](#)

### **Save the Date: SCI Meeting - August 4-6 in Minneapolis, MN**

State Coverage Initiatives (SCI), a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, has announced that its annual meeting for state officials will be August 4th-6th in Minneapolis, MN. The main two-day meeting will be on August 5th-6th and will focus on the challenges of cost containment related to payment reforms and health care delivery systems.

[View the SCI Save the Date notice](#) for more information.

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## **Send Us Your News!**

If you have news items that you would like SHARE to highlight, please send them to Elizabeth Lukanen at [elukanen@umn.edu](mailto:elukanen@umn.edu).

**SHARE** is a National Program Office funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to fund, synthesize and disseminate evaluations of state health reform. Periodically, SHARE will send a newsletter outlining upcoming events, grantee activities and updates on our funded projects. For more information, visit SHARE's web site, [www.statereformevaluation.org](http://www.statereformevaluation.org).

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