

NEWS FROM GRANTEES

SHARE Releases Section 125 Issue Brief by Grantee Mark Hall

The SHARE Issue Brief, "Section 125 Plans for Individual and HIPAA's Group Insurance Provisions" was co-authored by SHARE Investigator Mark A. Hall, J.D., of Wake Forest University Health Sciences along with his colleague from the University of Missouri Law School, Amy Monahan, J.D. The Issue Brief examines the specific legal considerations related to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) regulations for states that are "requiring employers to offer their employees the ability to pay for health insurance on a pre-tax basis through a 'cafeteria' (or premium-only) plan under section 125 of the tax code." There is some concern that this arrangement may not be legal under HIPAA non-discrimination provisions. The legal issues are complex but important for states to understand. Unfortunately, there is no clear cut answer to date. The researchers conclude that "...the current state of the law is unclear and is subject to change." To obtain a copy of the brief [click here](#). Let us know if you have an idea for an Issue Brief that we could help you develop and distribute.

P.S. Amy Monahan has been a visiting professor here at the University of Minnesota Law School and we hope to meet her in person before she heads back to Missouri!

SHARE ACTIVITIES

SHARE Activities at AcademyHealth

In addition to our annual SHARE breakfast, we were successful in securing two out of the three panel presentations we submitted to AcademyHealth's Annual Research Meeting in Chicago. The first session will take place at the State Health Research and Policy Interest Group meeting on Saturday, June 27.

Here is the schedule for SHARE at AcademyHealth. We hope to see you at many of these sessions. Let us know if you have other presentations you would like us to include on our SHARE list of AcademyHealth activities.

Saturday, June 27th

State Health Research and Policy Interest Group Meeting

Lynn Blewett will chair the session titled, "Early Results from the State Health Access Reform Evaluation (SHARE) Program." SHARE grantees Anna Sommers, Joel Cantor, Ronald Deprez, and David Idala will present.

Monday, June 29th

7:00 - 8:30 am

SHARE Breakfast

Tuesday, June 30

8:00 - 9:30 am

Brian Quinn, RWJF Program Officer, will chair the session titled, "The Lab Reports: Evaluating States' Actions to Expand Access and Coverage." SHARE grantees Genevieve Kenney, Thomas DeLeire, Sharon Long, and Anna Sommers will present.

SHARE Activities at NASHP and APPAM Conferences

SHARE submitted proposals for panel presentations to the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) October 5-7, 2009 in Long Beach, California and to the annual Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Conference November 5-7, 2009 in Washington D.C. If you plan to present at either Conference, please let us know so that we can highlight your presentations (elukanen@umn.edu).

GRANTEE ACTION ITEMS

SHARE Annual Reporting

The SHARE Annual Narrative and Financial Reports are due soon. For grants awarded in **April**, the reports are due **April 30**. For grants awarded in **May**, reports are due **May 29**.

These should be prepared using the new RWJF guidelines:

[Annual Narrative Report](#)

[Annual Financial Report](#)

[Bibliography](#) and [Products](#): You no longer need to submit a Bibliography with your Annual Narrative Report. Instead, please email a copy of your grant products to Elizabeth Lukanen and RWJF as you produce them. (Products are the deliverables of your grant, such as journal articles, reports, and conference proceedings.) If you have already produced grant products, please send them to [Elizabeth Lukanen](#) and [RWJF](#) as soon as possible.

Instructions for Submission:

All reports must now be submitted electronically to Elizabeth Lukanen (elukanen@umn.edu) and RWJF (grantreports@rwjf.org). When submitting reports, include the award ID# in the subject line of the e-mail followed by the word *Report*. When submitting products, include the award ID# in the subject line of the e-mail followed by the word *Product*. For more information about RWJF's new submission standards, please [click here](#).

For the Annual Narrative Report, please email a copy to [Elizabeth Lukanen](#) and RWJF.

For the Annual Financial Report, please email a copy to [Elizabeth Lukanen](#) and RWJF.

For Products, please email a copy of your grant products to [Elizabeth Lukanen](#) and [RWJF](#) as you produce them. (Products are the deliverables of your grant, such as journal articles, reports, and conference proceedings.)

If you have any questions about the guidelines or submission process, please contact [Elizabeth Lukanen](#).

OTHER NEWS

HRSA Announces State Health Access Grants

The State Health Access Grants are intended to support States that are ready to address the needs of the uninsured populations in that State. Two types of State grants are available: 1) target grants for States focusing on a particular population(s) at \$2-4 million a year for 5 years, subject to the availability of funds and 2) comprehensive grants for large States or those planning more extensive coverage initiatives at \$7-10 million a year for 5 years, subject to the availability of funds. HRSA is offering technical assistance for this opportunity in the form of a pre-application conference call. The call will take place **Thursday, April 30** from 2:00-4:00pm Eastern Time.

Dial-in: 1-800-593-7195

Passcode: mherzog

The application deadline is **June 16, 2009**. For more information about the grants, or to begin an application, please [click here](#).

If you have news items that you want us to highlight, please send them to SHARE Deputy Director, Elizabeth Lukanen, MPH at 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.