February 11, 2014

Announcements

SHARE: Call for Proposals Deadline is this Thursday, February 13

The deadline for State Health Access Reform Evaluation (SHARE) program’s Call for Proposals for research on issues surrounding state health reform is this Thursday, February 13. This solicitation focuses specifically on the Coverage Provisions of the Affordable Care Act. Brief proposals are due February 13, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. EST. Grants are scheduled to begin in October 2014. Please see the CFP for grant information and application instructions. A review of past SHARE grant activities is included in this report published in December 2013.

2014 NASI Summer Internship Programs

The National Academy of Social Insurance is now accepting applications for paid internships for students studying for or interested in careers in social insurance policy. Internship programs cover a wide array of policy areas including Health and Income Security Policy, Aging and Long-term Care Policy, Disability Policy, and Non-profit Management. The programs consist of a 12-week summer internship that usually spans May to August, depending on the student’s schedule. Deadline to Apply: March 1, 2014. For more information, visit NASI’s Internship Opportunities page or email internships@nasi.org.

SHADAC: AP Study on Geographic Concentration of the Uninsured

Geography matters, according to a SHADAC study conducted to analyze geographic concentration of the uninsured across U.S. counties. SHADAC found that half of uninsured Americans live in just 116 of the nation’s 3,143 counties, indicating that an outreach campaign targeted to select areas and counties could have a significant impact on enrollment. See the AP article published on February 5, 2014 in addition to a great interactive map.

Adapting Federal Surveys to Measure Exchange Participation: Webinar Recording Available

An audio recording of SHADAC’s webinar featuring Joanne Pascale, Research Social Science Analyst, US Census Bureau on work to adapt its federal surveys to measure health insurance post-reform is now available. Ms. Pascale provided examples of survey questions tested by Census to measure participation in subsidized and non-subsidized insurance marketplaces that can be adapted to state and local surveys. View the webinar slides, recording, and additional resources here.

SHADAC: ACA Marketplace Enrollment Reports

SHADAC’s new Marketplace Enrollment Reports provide monthly updates of Marketplace enrollment by state using data included on the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) Marketplace enrollment reports, SHADAC focuses its reports on states running their own State-Based Marketplace and includes a map displaying which states are operating (1) State-based; (2) Federal-State Partnerships; and Federally-facilitated Marketplaces. This resource will be updated regularly as additional state and ASPE enrollment reports are published and made available.

SHADAC: MACPAC Presentation on Medicaid Payment Reform in Four States

Lynn Blewett and Julie Sonier presented findings from a report, “Paying for Value in Medicaid: A Synthesis of Advanced Payment Models in Four States” to the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC) on January 23, 2014. The project involved site visits with MACPAC staff to four states–Arkansas, Minnesota, Oregon and Pennsylvania–in the fall of 2013. The presentation is available here. The full report will be available on MACPAC’s website in the coming months.

State-Based Marketplace Enrollment Report Highlights

Covered California Weekly Health Insurance Marketplace Enrollment Updates

Covered California and the California Department of Health Care Services provide weekly updates on its Marketplace enrollment. Its recent report showed that over 170,000 applied for enrollment during the week ending February 1, 2014. The weekly updates include information on unique website visits; call center statistics, including total call volume, average wait time, and average handling time; and the number of certified or authorized enrollments. In addition, enrollment data by county, age, metal level,
gender, carrier, and federal poverty level are provided. Enrollment information for Covered California is updated and posted every Tuesday on Covered California’s website.

**Washington Healthplanfinder: Comprehensive Enrollment Report**

Washington’s state-based health insurance exchange, the Washington Healthplanfinder, recently published an in-depth enrollment report representing data taken from October 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013. The report uses a variety of charts, tables, and infographics to display website and call center statistics, overall enrollment status of applications, and enrollment data by county, age, metal level, gender, carrier, and federal poverty level.

**Maryland Health Connection: January Enrollment Report**

The latest report from the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange provides enrollment updates on Maryland’s state-based health insurance marketplace, the Maryland Health Connection. From October 1, 2013 through January 2014, nearly 27,000 individuals have enrolled in private health plans through Maryland’s exchange and an additional 42,302 people have enrolled in Medicaid coverage. The report also links to a new provider search tool. Reports are posted on the Maryland Health Connection website and updated weekly.

**Resources**

**2012 Data added to Integrated Health Interview Series (IHIS)**

The Integrated Health Interview Series (IHIS), which links and harmonizes over 30 years of the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) has recently added data from the 2012 NHIS. This latest IHIS data release added approximately 600 variables, including new ACA health reform variables and several 2012 survey supplements including: child balance; complementary and alternative medicine; food security; child mental health and mental health services; tobacco; voice, speech, and language; heart disease and stroke prevention. IHIS has also provided new or updated variable-level information pages for an additional 500 existing variables.

**SHADAC Resources for Monitoring the ACA**

A list of SHADAC resources for monitoring the ACA is now available and includes a number of online resources, regularly updated data reports, and resources on federal and state survey data that can be used to monitor the impact of the ACA’s coverage expansions and access to care. Short descriptions provide context for how each resource can be utilized.

**Report: How Those with Cancelled Insurance Policies Fare in ACA Marketplaces**

In a new Robert Wood Johnson Foundation report, researchers at the Urban Institute examine whether those who had their health insurance plans cancelled due to noncompliance with the minimum standards of the ACA will be better off in the new state or federal marketplaces. The report assesses premium costs for bronze and silver plans beginning in January 2014 in the Marketplaces of all 50 states and concludes that most individuals, especially those who qualify for subsidies, would not be able to find coverage for a lower premium than those available in the marketplaces. Those without subsidies may have higher premiums, but likely have more extensive benefits than their previous plans as a result of the ACA’s minimum standards.

**Issue Brief: Minimizing Churn**

A new issue brief from the Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS) outlines key considerations states can implement to reduce the effects of churn on families. The brief highlights how select states have sought to avoid interruptions in care for recipients who transition across the new array of coverage options.

**Recommended Reading**

Administration Drills Down to Find the Uninsured

Glass Half Full: Health Insurance Exchange Implementation
SHADAC Blog by Lynn Blewett, January 22, 2014

The Four Most Important states to watch on Obamacare’s Medicaid Expansion

**Conference Updates**

**Calls for Papers, Upcoming Conferences**

American Public Health Association (APHA) 2014 Annual Meeting
Abstracts due between February 10-14, 2014 (depending on presentation type). [View the Call for Abstracts](#).

AcademyHealth - 2014 State Health Research and Policy Interest Group Meeting
Abstracts due February 14, 2014. [View the Call for Abstracts](#).

[View a list of upcoming conferences and calls for papers](#).
Call for Proposals

View the Call for Proposals issued by the State Health Access Reform Evaluation (SHARE) program for grant information and application instructions.