

# Protecting our Nation's Health and Wellness

A BUDGET FOR  
**AMERICA'S  
FUTURE**

The 2021 Budget requests \$94.5 billion for HHS, a 10 percent decrease from the 2020 enacted level. The Budget proposes roughly \$1.6 trillion in net mandatory health savings, reducing longer-term deficits by eliminating wasteful and inefficient spending while preserving beneficiaries' access to care, enhancing competition, and prioritizing Federal resources for the most vulnerable.

## **Combating Drug Abuse and Opioid Epidemic**

The Budget invests \$5 billion in HHS to combat the opioid epidemic, making critical investments in research, surveillance, prevention, treatment, access to overdose reversal drugs, and recovery support services. This funding includes \$1.6 billion, an \$85 million increase from the 2020 enacted level, for State Opioid Response grants, which support prevention, treatment, and recovery support services. States are also given flexibility to use these funds to address psychostimulants, including methamphetamines.

## **Mental Illness**

The Budget promotes methods of delivering care that improve outcomes for individuals with serious mental illness (SMI). The Budget includes \$225 million for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) expansion grants, and extends, through 2021, the CCBHC Medicaid demonstration programs to improve community mental health services for the eight States currently in the demonstration. The Budget includes an additional \$25 million in HHS to expand primary healthcare services to address homelessness. In addition, the Budget modifies the Medicaid Institutions of Mental Diseases (IMD) exclusion to provide targeted flexibility to States to provide inpatient mental health services to beneficiaries with SMI, as part of a comprehensive strategy that includes improvements to community-based treatment.

## **Continues the Initiative to End the HIV Epidemic in America**

The 2021 Budget includes \$716 million for the second year of the multiyear initiative to eliminate HIV in America, a \$450 million increase compared to the 2020 enacted level. The Budget includes: \$371 million for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to reduce new HIV infections; \$302 million for Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to deliver HIV care through the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program and to supply testing, evaluation, prescription of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), and associated medical costs through the Health Centers program; \$27 million to the Indian Health Service (IHS) to tackle the epidemic in American Indian and Alaska Native communities; and \$16 million for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for evaluation activities to identify effective interventions to treat and prevent HIV.

## **Enhances Influenza Vaccines and Health Security**

The Budget supports Executive Order 13887, "Modernizing Influenza Vaccines in the United States to Promote National Security and Public Health," by providing a \$95 million increase, compared to the 2020 enacted level, across HHS for influenza vaccine activities. The Budget improves access to non-egg-based influenza vaccines for Medicare beneficiaries and funds HHS biodefense and emergency preparedness procurement through the BioShield program and the Strategic National Stockpile. The Budget includes \$175 million to support CDC's global health security activities, an increase of \$50 million compared to the 2020 enacted level. The Administration is leveraging these emergency preparedness programs and other necessary public health measures to support the coronavirus response and protect the American public.

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## **Reforms Oversight of Tobacco Products**

The Budget proposes to move the Center for Tobacco Products out of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and create a new agency within HHS to focus on tobacco regulation. This new agency with the singular mission on tobacco would have greater capacity to respond strategically to the growing complexity of new tobacco products.

## **Advances American Kidney Health**

The Budget includes proposals consistent with the goals outlined in Executive Order 13879, "Advancing American Kidney Health," to transform how kidney disease is prevented, diagnosed, and treated. The Budget would allow individuals with Medicare covered kidney transplants to retain lifetime coverage for immunosuppressive drugs, and improve oversight of Organ Procurement Organizations, ensuring that deficiencies do not continue unexamined for an extended period of time. The Budget also encourages more living kidney donors by expanding reimbursement for travel and other donation-related costs.

## **Improves Maternal Health in America**

The Budget provides \$74 million in new resources to address maternal mortality and morbidity by focusing on four strategic goals: 1) achieve healthy outcomes for all women of reproductive age by improving prevention and treatment; 2) achieve healthy pregnancies and births by prioritizing quality improvement; 3) achieve healthy futures by optimizing postpartum health; and 4) improve data and bolster research to inform future interventions.

## **Improves Access to Rural Healthcare**

The Budget proposes to improve rural healthcare by expanding access to telemedicine services and modifying payments to Rural Health Clinics to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries continue to benefit from primary care services in their communities. To address the trend of rural hospital closures, the Budget proposes to allow critical access hospitals to voluntarily convert to rural standalone emergency hospitals and remove the requirement to maintain inpatient beds. In addition, the Budget maintains funding for Rural Health Outreach grants in HRSA.

## **Supports the President's Health Reform Vision**

The Budget includes an allowance for the President's health reform vision. While Americans have the best healthcare options in the world, rising healthcare costs continue to be a top financial concern for many Americans. The President's great healthcare vision will ensure better care at lower costs. Americans deserve affordable, personalized care that puts them in control and provides peace of mind. The President's healthcare reforms will protect the most vulnerable, especially those with pre-existing conditions, and provide the affordability, choice, and control Americans want, and the high-quality care that all Americans deserve.

**Protects and Improves the Medicare Program.** The Budget includes proposals to eliminate wasteful spending, preserve beneficiaries' access to care, and enhance choice and competition, consistent with Executive Order 13890. The Budget prioritizes use of the trust funds to pay for seniors' healthcare and incentivizes quality and efficiency in Medicare. The Budget proposes to align payments for post-acute care with patients' needs and the most clinically appropriate site of care, while expanding access to telehealth services. The Budget would

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extend the solvency of the Medicare program for at least the next 25 years for America's seniors.

**Ensures Federal Funds Protect Life and Conscience Rights.** The Budget prioritizes the value of human life by ensuring that Federal funding does not support abortions. The Budget proposes to prohibit Federal funding, such as in the Title X Family Planning and Medicaid programs, for certain entities that provide abortion services and to protect conscience rights.

**Supports Drug Pricing and Payment Reforms.** The 2021 Budget includes an allowance for bipartisan drug pricing proposals. The Administration supports legislative efforts to improve the Medicare Part D benefit by establishing an out-of-pocket maximum, improving incentives to contain costs, and reducing out-of-pocket expenses for seniors. The Administration also supports changes to bring lower-cost generic and biosimilar drugs to patients. These efforts would increase competition, reduce drug prices, and lower out-of-pocket costs for patients at the pharmacy counter.

**Addresses Improper Payments in Medicare and Medicaid.** The Budget includes proposals to reduce improper payments and strengthen the integrity and sustainability of the Medicare program. In addition, the Budget proposes reforms to improve stewardship of taxpayer dollars by strengthening the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) ability to address weaknesses in provider screening, enrollment, and identification, as well as beneficiary eligibility determinations in Medicaid. The Budget strengthens CMS's ability to recover overpayments due to incorrect eligibility determinations in the program.

**Strengthens Indian Health Service (IHS).** The Budget supports key reforms at IHS, including those that bolster recruitment and retention of quality healthcare professionals and expand telehealth to IHS beneficiaries. The Budget maintains dedicated funding to address accreditation challenges at IHS facilities, and continues the multiyear effort to modernize its aging Electronic Health Record system.

**Prioritizes Critical Health Research and Supports Innovation.** The Budget provides \$38 billion for innovative research at NIH. NIH would continue to address the opioid epidemic and emerging stimulants, make progress on developing a universal flu vaccine, prioritize vector-borne disease research, and support industries of the future. The Budget funds the second year of the Childhood Cancer Data Initiative.

**Advances Vector-Borne Disease Prevention and Control.** The Budget includes \$66 million for CDC's vector-borne disease activities, a \$14 million increase compared to the 2020 enacted level that focuses on tick-borne diseases. The Budget also invests in NIH research to improve the Nation's understanding of vector-borne diseases.