



News from Congress:

08/23/2018 – The Senate [passed a mini omnibus bill](#) with budgets for the Departments of Labor, Defense, and Health and Human Services, covering about 90 percent of annual spending. The [conference report reconciling the House and Senate versions was approved](#) along with a stopgap spending bill to keep the government open through Dec. 7. Most HHS programs received level funding or modest increases.

09/05/2018 – The House Subcommittee on Health held a [Opportunities to Improve Health Care](#) hearing, and reviewed five different bipartisan bills that would improve health care by ensuring better quality of patient care and reduce health care fraud. Witnesses from national trade and advocacy associations, state executive offices and national insurance companies testified on the legislation.

09/07/2018 – Senator Lamar Alexander (Tenn.), chairman of the Senate HELP Committee, announced the [Senate would be voting on an opioids package bill this week](#). Earlier this summer the House passed a package with 58 bills, many of them including opioid prevention and treatment policies. The Senate version was held up over a few issues including; funding levels, a proposed Department of Justice grant program Senate democrats [said favored a drug recovery organization tied to PhRMA](#), and proposed changes for funding certain types of [Medicaid facilities treating addiction](#). Democratic and Republican leaders were ultimately able to work out a final bill. The Senate version is largely similar to the House version, but several changes have been added and will require conference meetings between the two chambers after the Senate votes.

From the Administration:

09/10/2018 – In light of National Suicide Day on Sept. 10, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration has put together resources on statistics, prevention and resources to help those affected by suicide. [More Resources](#).

09/07/2018 – The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released a proposed memorandum of understanding (MOU) to [address previous regulations on prescription drug compounders in states](#). The proposal would require states to identify compounders distributing more than half of their total prescription drug orders across state lines and ask them to report certain information to the FDA. Information could include: what volume of drugs they have distributed interstate and in how many states the compounder is licensed. A related draft MOU came out in 2015 and required states to take action against compounders distributing 30 percent or more of all prescription drugs by a pharmacy that was out-of-state. This current MOU would no longer require states to act and instead asks them to consider whether action is needed by using a risk-based approach. [The FDA will be receiving comments on the draft for 90 days](#).

09/13/18 - 09/14/18 – The Medicaid and CHIP and Access Payment Commission ([MACPAC](#)) will be hosting their monthly meeting to discuss a few health and human services programs and policies. Panelists and MACPAC board members will discuss: multistate collaboration—looking at best practices across state sectors in implementing health programs, hospital payment and disproportionate share hospital payments,

operational considerations for Medicaid work and community engagement requirements, Medicaid coverage for new and high-costs prescription drugs, and a report that was requested from Congress on implementing therapeutic foster care.

09/14/2018 – The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration unveiled their [2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health](#), which includes trends in substance use, serious mental illness and treatment, and other key data on mental and substance use disorders. Watch the livestream of the data [release](#).

09/21/2018 – The Children’s Bureau released two updates on the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS). First, the [effective date](#) for the 2016 final rule will be delayed until Oct. 1, 2020. The Children’s Bureau also released a [memo on revising AFCARS data points](#).

From the States:

09/03/2018 – The Detroit Public School System joins several other state school systems in turning off their water supply ahead of a new school year. [The district will have to bring in water coolers and bottled water for 106 schools](#). The public health effects of contaminated water has been in the spotlight over the past few years since it was discovered the city of [Flint, Michigan was receiving contaminated water](#) and its residents are still relying on bottled water as a result. [Watch](#) the CDC presentation on Safe Water that was given at this year’s NCSL Legislative Summit.

09/012/2018 – The Colorado State Claims Board has approved a settlement with [the Colorado Department of Corrections \(CDOC\) to spend \\$41 million over two years](#) for hepatitis C treatment for inmates. The American Civil Liberties Union brought forward a class-action lawsuit behalf of several inmates that were hepatitis C positive but had been denied treatment. The settlement will help treat 2,200 prisoners in the CDOC system. This case is one of several across the country where states have been confronted on stringent policies for treating hepatitis C positive inmates, while facing rising prison health

care costs as a growing part of state budgets. Read [additional resources](#) from NCSL and our partners on this issue.

Funding Announcements:

Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5) Funding Announcement

The Administration for Children and Families is taking applications from eligible states and territories for the Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five (PDG B-5).

The HRSA Maternal and Child Health Bureau will be launching the: [Addressing Opioid Use Disorder in Pregnant Women and New Moms Challenge](#) on Sept. 19. The program will award \$375,000 in prizes to support tech innovations to improve access to quality health care for substance use disorder, treatment, recovery and other services for pregnant women with opioid use disorders, including their infants and families.

States and territories can apply for as little as \$500,000 and as much as \$15,000,000 for the first year of funding. Applications are due Nov. 6, 2018. Additional information can be found [online](#).

There will a webinar on Sept. 18 from 2-3 p.m. ET including ACF Office of Child Care and the U.S. Department of Education. [Access dial in information](#).

Spotlight On:

HRSA’s New Open Data Website is Live

The new [data.hrsa.gov](#) website provides national health summary data using interactive maps, dashboards, query tools, fact sheets, and downloadable data related to HRSA-funded health centers, grants, loan repayment and scholarship programs, Health Professional Shortage Areas, and other programs. It provides state, county, regional, and congressional district data.

For more information on NCSL's Health and Human Services Standing Committee State-Federal Affairs activities, please visit [our website](#), or email [Haley Nicholson](#) or [Abbie Gruwell](#).