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Thursday, Jan. 21, 2021

Today's headlines:

- [Webinar looks at COVID-19 and pharmacy most favored nation mode](#)
- [Gov. announces funding for employer-innovation and child care](#)
- [Medicaid coverage extended to Iowa COFA citizens](#)

Webinar looks at COVID-19 and pharmacy most favored nation model

Pharmaceutical manufacturers are working feverishly to test medicines and develop new treatments to move them through clinical trials and FDA approvals for use in humans. [This webinar](#), scheduled from **10-11 am Thursday, Jan. 28**, will identify the most-recent pharmaceutical vaccines and therapeutics approved for the treatment and prevention of COVID-19 and discuss billing and reimbursement considerations. The session also will discuss the implications and logistics of the most favored nation model and the new Medicare Part B payment model.

Gov. announces funding for employer-innovation and child care

Gov. Kim Reynolds announced two Future Ready Iowa grant opportunities totaling \$1.2 million. The Future Ready Iowa Employer Innovation Fund expands opportunities for Iowans to earn postsecondary credentials leading to high-demand jobs and encourages Iowa employers, community leaders and others to collaborate to support regional workforce talent development.

The Child Care Challenge Fund encourages regional and community projects that will create increased child care slots in local communities by supporting the development, renovation or rehabilitation of child care facilities. The availability of quality, affordable child care for working Iowans has been a longstanding workforce challenge that has been exacerbated by the pandemic. Applications for the funding opportunities must be submitted on IowaGrants.gov by Friday, Feb. 12.



Medicaid coverage extended to Iowa COFA citizens

The 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act, which was signed into law Dec. 27, 2020, adds Medicaid coverage for citizens of Palau, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia living in the United States through Compacts of Free Association (COFA) treaties. A drafting error in previous federal legislation caused COFA migrants to be barred from receiving full Medicaid coverage since 1996.

Although Iowa used a state option made available in subsequent federal legislation in 2010 to offer full Medicaid to otherwise-eligible COFA migrants under age 21, Iowa Medicaid couldn't offer full Medicaid to COFA migrants age 21 and over. COFA migrants of all ages who apply for Medicaid and meet all other Medicaid eligibility requirements are now eligible for full Medicaid. DHS is awaiting further guidance from CMS and has begun developing an implementation plan to provide Medicaid coverage to the COFA migrant population as soon as possible.

Email [Susan Horras](#) at IHA with questions.

NewsStand

Iowa news

- [Iowa mental health advocates say proposed funding is not enough](#)
- [Social workers step on front lines of pandemic to protect Iowa's youth](#)
- [What we know about Iowa's COVID-19 vaccine plan](#)

National news

- [Pandemic has cut options for kids with mental illness](#)
- [Noneligible people from leading medical centers are being vaccinated](#)
- [Emerging answers about COVID-19 vaccine protection](#)

Click [HERE](#) to read all of NewsStand.

Upcoming events

- [Roundtable: Thriving Through a Pandemic](#): Thursday, Jan. 21.
- [Advanced Leadership Academy](#): Thursday, Jan. 21-Thursday, Nov. 11.
- [Protecting the Employee: Hospital's Responsibilities during COVID](#): Wednesday, Jan. 27.
- [COVID-19 and Most Favored Nation Model for Pharmacies](#): Thursday, Jan. 28.
- [COVID-19 Diagnoses, Procedures and Telehealth](#): Thursday, Feb. 4.
- [Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement Program](#): Tuesday, Feb. 16.
- [Physician Business Leadership Certification Program](#): Tuesday, Feb. 23-Tuesday, Aug. 10.
- [Wage Index: Strategies and Trends in Iowa](#): Thursday, Feb. 25.
- [Iowa Rehabilitation Managers Virtual Spring Conference](#): Thursday, March 4.
- [Common Life Safety Code Deficiencies](#): Tuesday, March 16.



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