



ITCA Update

March 31, 2025

This week's update reports on activities occurring in Washington DC directly related to our mission and purpose. Congress plans to adjourn for a two-week spring recess on April 11th. ITCA will continue to provide federal updates on Monday of each week.

Plans Announced for Major Changes at HHS: Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), has announced plans for significant changes to the agency. His plan is included at:

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/hhs-restructuring-doge.html>

This includes a Reduction in Force (RIF), effective May 27th, of about 10,000 staff at HHS. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is losing 3,500 staff, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is losing 1,200 staff, and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is losing 2,400 staff. In addition, about 300 staff will be cut from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Overall, the entire agency will be cut by 25% with the full workforce being reduced from 82,000 to 62,000.

The plan also includes some reorganization of HHS. The number of divisions will be consolidated from 28 to 15, and field offices will be reduced from 10 to five. The CDC and the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response will be merged. A new office, the Administration for a Healthy America, is being created to include 15 of 28 existing divisions as well as the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Among the agencies proposed for elimination are the Administration for Community Living (ACL), which oversees the Lifespan Respite Care Program, the Older Americans Act programs, including the National Family Caregiver Support Program, the implementation of the National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers, and many other federal disability programs. Many of ACL's programs and services will be integrated into the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), and the office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

The plan states, "Critical programs that support older adults and people with disabilities will be integrated into other HHS agencies, including the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), ASPE, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This reorganization will not impact Medicare and Medicaid services."

No details have been provided on how and when the administration plans to move IDEA programs to HHS. More information can be found in the attached [fact sheet](#).

Last week, the Department of Health and Human Services canceled more than \$12 billion in federal grants to states. The funds were being used for tracking infectious diseases, mental health services, addiction treatment and other urgent health issues. This cut included about \$11.4 billion from the CDC, and about \$1 billion from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

The CDC grants had been allocated in response to the COVID pandemic. Last year, the money was also allowed to be put toward other immediate public health concerns, including testing and surveillance of other respiratory viruses, an array of vaccines for children or uninsured adults and preparedness for health emergencies.

Last week's cancellation notices stated that "No additional activities can be conducted, and no additional costs may be incurred, as it relates to these funds."

Senate Plans to Revise their Budget Resolution: Both the House and the Senate have passed their own versions of a Budget Resolution. To continue the process, both chambers now need to come to agreement on one version of the budget. The President does not vote on the Budget Resolution but has stated his clear preference for the House version.

The current House version is larger than the Senate budget and includes making the 2017 tax cuts permanent, cutting \$880 billion from programs that the House Energy and Commerce Committee oversees. Advocates are very worried that these cuts will include significant cuts to domestic programs, most likely Medicaid and SNAP.

The Senate may begin floor consideration of their updated version of the budget this week. Senate Leadership wants passage of a new bill before the weekend.

Measles Toolkit Released: The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has released a toolkit on measles that includes resources "promoting timely measles vaccination and combating misinformation." The toolkit is available at <https://www.aap.org/en/news-room/campaigns-and-toolkits/measles-toolkit/>