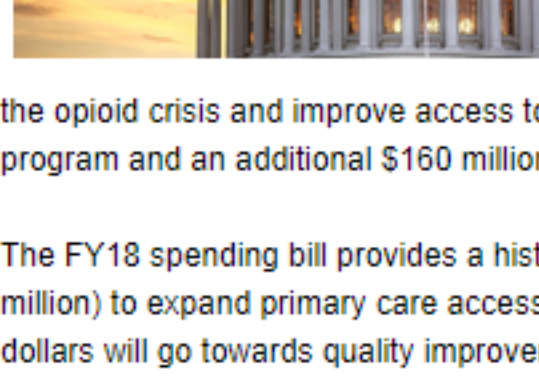


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**FY18 Omnibus Appropriations and Health Centers**

On March 22, 2018, Congress passed a \$1.3 trillion [FY18 Omnibus Appropriations](#) bill which provides firm funding for the federal government through September 30, 2018. The bill provides \$654.6 billion for defense and national security, and \$589.5 billion for investments in critical priorities such as education, health care, roads and bridges. Nearly \$3.3 billion dedicated to battle the opioid crisis and improve access to mental health treatment, including a new \$1 billion State Opioid Response Grant program and an additional \$160 million for the SAMHSA Mental Health Block Grant.

The FY18 spending bill provides a historic \$1.626 billion in discretionary 330 grant funding (an increase of more than \$300 million) to expand primary care access at health centers across the country. In addition, \$200 million in Section 330 grant dollars will go towards quality improvement or service expansion grants to support behavioral health, mental health, or substance use disorder services, and replenishes the Health Center Loan Guarantee Program with \$20 million, which will leverage up to \$743.5 million in private loan activity.

In regards to workforce development, National Health Service Corps (NHSC) received \$415 million in mandatory and discretionary spending, which includes an additional \$105 million to expand the delivery of substance use disorder treatment services. The bill also creates a new \$350 million Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) fund, to provide relief to PSLF applicants who are ineligible for PSLF due to choosing the wrong student loan repayment option.

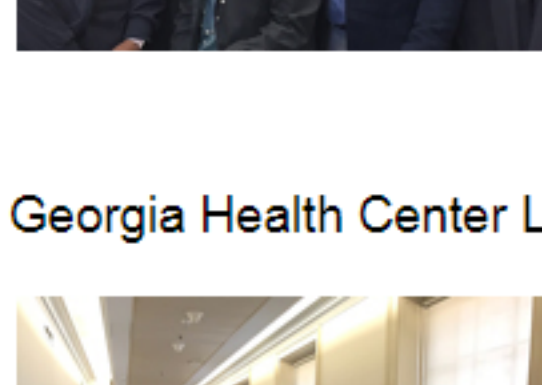
**HHS Secretary Priorities**

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary, Alex Azar Secretary, has established four main priorities: to help curb the high cost of prescription drugs, make health insurance more affordable and available, continue bipartisan efforts to focus Medicare payments on quality and confront the growing opioid addiction epidemic.

**Changes to Section 330 Statute Included in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (BBA)**

- Creates new Improving Quality of Care grants for evidence-based models of increasing access to primary care
- Provides new considerations and expectations for [New Access Point and Expanded Service grants](#)
  - Creates new considerations when awarding these grants, considering service area overlap and other factors
- Encourages greater local and state collaboration and consultation
- Clarifies and establishes new program requirements
- [Adjusts oversight authority and timelines based on program compliance](#)
  - Effective with the 2019 SAC period, if a health center has even one condition at the time of SAC, it will receive a one-year-only project period;
  - if after that one year the health center still has at least one condition, it will receive another one-year-only project period;
  - the third year, if non-compliant, it will not be funded

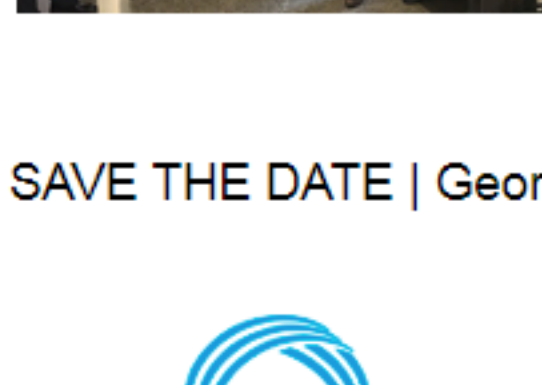
**Albany Area Primary Health Care Opens Vision Clinic in School Based Health Center**



On March 8, [Albany Area Primary Health Care, Inc.](#) held an Open House for the opening of a Vision Clinic at OneSight Vision Clinic at Alice Coachman Elementary School Based Health Center. AAPHC received a grant from the OneSight Foundation which provided funds for construction, salaries and equipment for this facility. AAPHC started medical services at this School Based Health Center site January 2016 and is excited to expand to vision services at this site.

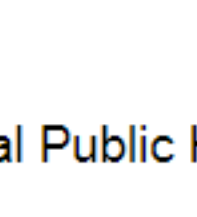
[READ MORE](#)

**Georgia Health Center Leaders Meet With U.S. Representative Jody Hice**



On March 15, Georgia health center leaders met with Rep. Jody Hice (R-10) along with his Legislative Director, Tim Reitz, during Annual NACHC Hill Visits in Washington, D.C. Hice was presented with the Distinguished Community Health Advocate Award, due to his actions in support of health centers. During the meeting, the congressman was particularly interested in learning about the health centers' role in the opioid crisis intervention. This visit was one among several other congressional appointments conducted by Georgia health center CEOs, board members and staff during NACHC Hill Day.

**SAVE THE DATE | Georgia Medicaid Fair | April 25 | Tifton, GA**



**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH**

The Department of Community Health (DCH) and DXC Technology encourage you to save the date for our next Medicaid Fair. The Medicaid Fair will open with important updates on emergent issues by DCH Leadership. There will be over a dozen break-out sessions that will cover a variety of topics. The Care Management Organizations (CMOs) will be onsite to answer your questions. Please stay tuned for additional details. Registration information will be posted soon.


[LEARN MORE](#)

**National Public Health Week | April 2 - 8**



Join American Public Health Association in celebrating [National Public Health Week](#) and become part of a growing movement to create the healthiest nation in one generation. We're celebrating the power of prevention, advocating for healthy and fair policies, sharing strategies for successful partnerships and championing the role of a strong public health system. [Become a Partner](#). Show your support for public health and prevention! [Follow NPHW on Twitter](#). Participate in the [NPHW Twitter Chat](#) on April 2, 1-3 p.m. and [check out this roundup of the fantastic 2017 #NPHWChat](#).

[LEARN MORE](#)



**TRI-STATE Oral Health Summit**  
GEORGIA • MISSISSIPPI • TENNESSEE

**June 7 - 9, 2018**  
The Hotel at Avalon  
Alpharetta, Georgia

[REGISTER NOW](#)

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

- [School Grants for Healthy Kids](#) | Deadline April 6
- [Enhancement and Expansion of Treatment and Recovery Services for Adolescents, Transitional Aged Youth, and their Families](#) | Deadline April 10
- [OAH FY18 Pregnancy Assistance Fund Support for Expectant and Parenting Teens, Women, Fathers, and Their Families](#) | Deadline April 12
- [Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects \(DRRP\) Program: Community Living and Participation \(Research\)](#) | Deadline April 16
- [Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects \(DRRP\) Program: Community Living and Participation \(Development\)](#) | Deadline April 16
- [School-Based Health Center Capital Funding Opportunity \(HRSA-19-073\)](#) | Deadline April 17
- [Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program \(FR-6100-N-35\)](#) | Deadline April 17
- [School Physical Activity and Nutrition Grants](#) | April 28
- [Research Grants for the Primary or Secondary Prevention of Opioid Overdose](#) | Deadline May 15
- [Healthcare Connect Fund](#) | Deadline May 31
- [Preventive Medicine Residency Program \(HRSA-18-008\)](#) | Deadline July 16
- [FY 2018 Announcement of Anticipated Availability of Funds for Family Planning Services Grants](#) | Ongoing
- [Trafficking Victim Assistance Program \(HHS\)](#) | Ongoing

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

**HRSA Behavioral Health Virtual Job Fair**

Wednesday, April 11, 2018 | 6:45 - 10:15 PM EST

During the Behavioral Health Virtual Job Fair, HRSA will have two training sessions. Behavioral health experts Roger Chou, MD, FACP and Heiene Silberblatt, MD will present separate training sessions designed to help behavioral health professionals improve quality of care for their patients. CEUs and CMEs may be available for select behavioral health professionals.

[LEARN MORE](#)

**NHSC Loan Repayment Program - 2018 Applications Accepted through April 23**

HRSA is now accepting applications for the 2018 Loan Repayment Program under the National Health Service Corps (NHSC.) The 2018 Application and Program Guidance has detailed information, including eligibility requirements, site information, documentation, and service requirements.

[NHSC Loan Repayment Program Application Webinar \(Recording\)](#)

**ACU 2018 Annual Conference**

July 29 - August 1, 2018 | Four Seasons Hotel | Washington, DC

The Association of Clinicians for the Underrepresented (ACU) will hold its 2018 Annual Conference July 29-August 1, 2018 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Washington, DC. Mark your calendar to attend this educational and informative conference. Registration rates to attend the conference are discounted if you [register early, by June 8, 2018](#). [REGISTER>>](#)

**GEORGIA NEWS**

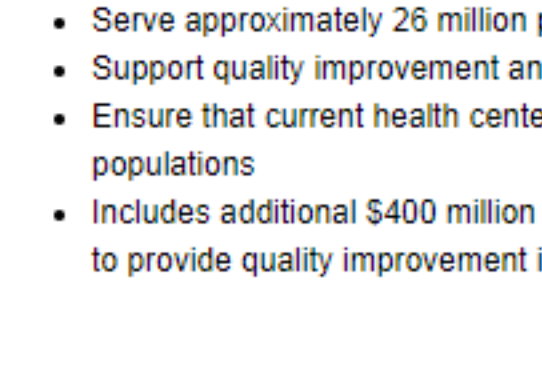
**Health care sinks Georgia in U.S. News' 'Best States' rankings**



Poor access to, and quality of, health care helped sink Georgia to [No. 31 overall](#) in the U.S. News & World Report's annual rankings of the best states. To compile [the rankings](#), U.S. News analyzes all 50 states across 77 metrics in eight categories. The top states were geographically and politically diverse, with Iowa coming out on top. Despite the bottom-half ranking, Georgia climbed from 36th in the country last year. Georgia is currently checking into its health care issues, with the state House of Representatives likely looking at several legislative proposals focusing on the needs of rural Georgia.

[READ MORE](#)

**Rural broadband bill clears Georgia House committee**



On Feb. 26th, a committee in the Georgia House of Representatives approved a rural broadband bill but removed a new tax on communications services opposed by the state Senate. The legislation is aimed at expanding broadband connectivity into rural communities that either lack coverage altogether or have inadequate service to meet the needs of would-be business tenants.

[READ MORE](#)

**FEDERAL UPDATES**

**President's FY 2019 Request: \$5.1 Billion**

- Serve approximately 26 million patients at nearly 1,400 health centers operating more than 11,000 delivery sites
- Support quality improvement and performance management at existing health center organizations
- Ensure that current health centers can continue to provide essential healthcare services to their patient populations
- Includes additional \$400 million for health centers to combat opioid use disorder, of which \$200 million is set aside to provide quality improvement incentive payments

**CMS, CCIIO Announced The State Flexibility to Stabilize the Market Grant Program**

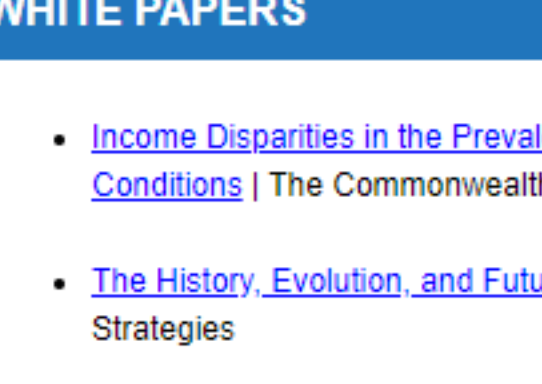
The [State Flexibility to Stabilize the Market Grant Program](#) provides grants to support states in providing added flexibility to strengthen the private health insurance market through implementation of market reforms. Up to \$8.1 million in two-year grants to states will be made in June 2018 to enhance and support the role of states in the implementation and planning for several of the federal market reforms and consumer protections.

[New Medicare Card](#)

[2018 CONGRESSIONAL CALENDAR](#)

**U.S. NEWS**

**States: Federal money for opioid crisis a small step forward**



The federal government will spend a record \$4.6 billion this year to fight the nation's deepening opioid crisis, which killed 42,000 Americans in 2016. But some advocates say the funding included in the spending plan the president signed Friday is not nearly enough to establish the kind of treatment system needed to reverse the crisis. A White House report last fall put the cost to the country of the overdose epidemic at more than \$500 billion a year.

[READ MORE](#)

**Why Walmart want to buy Humana**



Walmart has been making forays into consumer health care for more than a decade. Now, the nation's largest retailer may be looking to play a bigger role in the sector by acquiring Medicare insurance giant Humana - just as its rival Amazon is increasingly making its own moves in the health care market. Walmart and Humana are having early-stage talks about strengthening their existing partnership, people familiar with the matter.

[READ MORE](#)

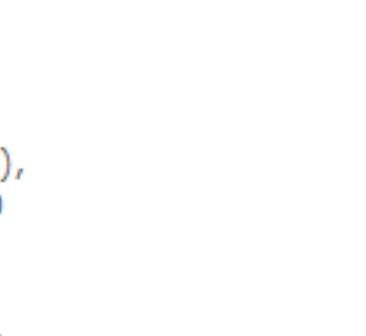
**WHITE PAPERS**

- [Income Disparities in the Prevalence, Severity and Costs of Co-Occurring Chronic and Behavioral Health Conditions](#) | The Commonwealth Fund
- [The History, Evolution, and Future of Medicaid Accountable Care Organizations](#) | Center for Health Care Strategies
- [U.S. Prescribing Rate Maps/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) | CDC

**TRAININGS**

- [Climate & Health Solutions Conference @ George Mason University](#) | April 8-10 | Arlington, VA
- [2018 Financial Operations Management, Level II \(FOM 2\)](#) | April 18 - 19 | Portland, Oregon
- [2018 Elevating Health Center Operations](#) | May 16 - 17 | Providence, RI
- [2018 Managing Ambulatory Health Care II \(MAHC 2\): Advanced Course for Clinical Leaders in Health Centers](#)  
June 25 - 28 | San Francisco, CA
- [South Carolina PCA](#) | Federal Torts Claim Act University (FTCAU) | July 19 - 20 | Registration TBA
- [6th Annual Rural HIV Research and Training Conference](#) | September 21 - 22 | Savannah, GA
- [SAMHSA Key Components of Integrated Care Roundtable Discussions](#) | May - August 2018
- [2018 NNOHA Conference](#) | Nov. 11-14 | New Orleans, LA
- [Upcoming Rural Health Conferences in Georgia](#) | Ongoing

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**  
**GPCA 2018 CONFERENCE**  
October 17-19 • Jekyll Island, GA



**CAREERS**

[CLICK HERE](#) for job opportunities at our Georgia Health Centers. Please contact Josh Avent at [javent@gaphc.org](mailto:javent@gaphc.org) to post or remove a listing.

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