

Major Departmental Components

Administration for Children and Families (ACF) www.acf.hhs.gov

ACF is responsible for programs that promote the economic and social well-being of children, families, and communities. ACF administers the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program; the Head Start program, which serves pre-school children; and the National Child Support Enforcement System which collects billions of dollars in payments from non-custodial parents. Additionally, ACF provides funds to assist low-income families in paying for child care, to support state programs for foster care and adoption assistance, and to support programs that prevent child abuse and domestic violence.

Administration on Aging (AoA) www.aoa.gov

AoA supports a nationwide aging network, providing services to the elderly, especially to enable them to remain independent. AoA supports meals for the elderly each year, including home-delivered “meals on wheels.” AoA also helps provide transportation and at-home services, supports ombudsman services for the elderly, and provides policy leadership on aging issues.

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) www.ahrq.gov

AHRQ supports research on healthcare systems, quality, cost issues, access, and effectiveness of medical treatments. AHRQ also provides evidence-based information on healthcare outcomes and quality of care.

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) www.cdc.gov

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention director is also administrator of the ATSDR. ATSDR helps prevent exposure to hazardous substances from waste sites on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Priorities List, and develops toxicological profiles of chemicals at these sites.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) www.cdc.gov

CDC, working with states and other partners, provides a system of health surveillance to monitor and prevent disease outbreaks (including bioterrorism), and implement disease prevention strategies, and environmental disease prevention. CDC also guards against international disease transmission with personnel stationed in many countries.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) www.cms.gov

CMS administers the Medicare and Medicaid programs, which provide healthcare to about one in every four Americans. Medicare provides health insurance for elderly and disabled Americans. Medicaid, a joint Federal-state program, provides health coverage for certain groups of low-income individuals. CMS also administers the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) www.fda.gov

FDA assures the safety of foods and cosmetics, and the safety and efficacy of pharmaceuticals, biological products, and medical devices—products which represent almost 25 cents out of every dollar in U.S. consumer spending.

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) www.hrsa.gov

HRSA provides access to essential healthcare services for people who are low-income, uninsured, or who live in rural areas or urban neighborhoods where healthcare is scarce. HRSA supports comprehensive primary care services; helps prepare the Nation's healthcare system to respond to bioterrorism and other public health emergencies; maintains the National Health Service Corps; and helps build the healthcare workforce through training and education programs. HRSA also administers a variety of programs to improve the health of mothers and children and to serve underinsured people living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) through the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act programs. HRSA also oversees the Nation's organ transplant system.

Indian Health Service (IHS) www.ihs.gov

IHS provides health services to American Indians and Alaska Natives of federally recognized tribes. The Indian health system includes hospitals, health centers, health stations, satellite clinics, residential substance abuse treatment centers, Alaska Native village clinics, and urban Indian health programs.

National Institutes of Health (NIH) www.nih.gov

NIH is the world's premier medical research organization, supporting research projects nationwide in diseases including cancer, Alzheimer's, diabetes, heart ailments, and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) www.samhsa.gov

SAMHSA works to build resilience and facilitate recovery for people with or at risk for substance abuse and mental illness. It provides funding through grants to states and communities to support substance abuse and mental health services, including treatment for individuals with serious substance abuse or mental health problems. Additionally, SAMHSA helps improve substance abuse prevention and treatment services through the identification and dissemination of best practices, and monitors the prevalence and incidence of substance abuse.

Program Support Center www.psc.gov

PSC is a component of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management that provides support services to the Departmental components and other Federal departments and agencies. The PSC offers many products and services on a fee-for-service basis to government entities across the Nation.

Office of the Secretary

Departmental leadership is provided by the Office of the Secretary. Also included in the Department is the Office of Public Health and Science, the Office of Inspector General, the Office of Civil Rights, the Office of the Coordinator for Health Information Technology, and the Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals.

Strategic Goals

To carry out its mission, the Department articulated eight strategic goals in its FY 2004 - FY 2009 Strategic Plan. The eight strategic goals are:

- Goal 1. Reduce the major threats to the health and well-being of Americans
- Goal 2. Enhance the ability of the Nation's healthcare system to effectively respond to bioterrorism and other public health challenges
- Goal 3. Increase the percentage of the Nation's children and adults who have access to healthcare services, and expand consumer choices
- Goal 4. Enhance the capacity and productivity of the Nation's health science research enterprise
- Goal 5. Improve the quality of healthcare services
- Goal 6. Improve the economic and social well-being of individuals, families, and communities, especially those most in need
- Goal 7. Improve stability and healthy development of our Nation's children and youth
- Goal 8. Achieve excellence in management practices

HHS administers more than 300 programs, covering a wide spectrum of activities. Some highlights include:

- Health and social science research
- Preventing disease, including immunization services
- Assuring food and drug safety
- Medicare (health insurance for elderly and disabled Americans) and Medicaid (health insurance for low-income people)
- Health information technology
- Financial assistance and services for low-income families
- Improving maternal and infant health
- Head Start (pre-school education and services)
- Faith-based and community initiatives
- Preventing child abuse and domestic violence
- Substance abuse treatment and prevention
- Services for older Americans, including home-delivered meals
- Comprehensive health services for Native Americans
- Medical preparedness for emergencies, including potential terrorism