



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Tuesday, June 29, 2010

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**Starting July 1, Arizonans with Pre-Existing Conditions Will Have  
Access to Quality, Affordable Health Care**

**Applications Available on New Consumer Website  
Featuring Full Range of Insurance Options for Arizonans.**

**Washington, D.C.** – An important reform of the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act takes effect July 1 when Arizonans who have been without health coverage for at least six months and who have been denied coverage because of pre-existing conditions will be given access to affordable, quality coverage. Arizonans will receive coverage through a new Pre-existing Condition Insurance Plan (PCIP) created by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Families USA issued a report in May on the number of people in Arizona with pre-existing conditions. This report is available at the Families USA Web site, [www.familiesusa.org](http://www.familiesusa.org), and can be found with the search terms "Arizona & pre-existing conditions." The report reveals that 1,193,000 (one in five) Arizonans have a diagnosed pre-existing condition that could lead to a denial of coverage in the individual health insurance market.

To find the new coverage available in Arizona and information about the complete range of health coverage options available for consumers by ZIP code through a website set up by HHS, see <http://www.healthcare.gov>. The HHS Web site and other information about the new program will be available on July 1. Other resources also exist at <http://www.healthreform.gov> and <http://www.coverageforall.org>.

On July 1, the new website will be the first to provide consumers and small businesses with information about private insurance, Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, Medicare, and other coverage options in one place. Federal officials are emphasizing that the PCIP is not the long-term solution to the insurance industry's practice of denying coverage based on pre-existing conditions; instead, it will serve as a bridge to 2010, when the reform law bans denial of coverage based on pre-existing conditions.

*The Arizona Center for Disability Law is a non-profit public interest law firm, which advocates for the rights of people with disabilities to be free from abuse, neglect and discrimination and to have access to education, health care, housing, jobs, and other services. The Center is authorized and mandated under various federal statutes to protect the rights of all individuals with disabilities living in Arizona.*

*Families USA is the national organization for health care consumers. It is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization that advocates for high-quality, affordable health care for all Americans.*