Federal Update on Health Programs and Funding:
-Haley Nicholson, Policy Director- Health State-Federal Affairs, NCSL
Announcements from HHS and CMS:

- CMS announced several new initiatives for the Section 1115 Medicaid Waiver program.
- CMS would work with each state applying for a waiver to develop a timeline for the approval.
- Give states expedited approvals if their waiver is highly similar to one that has been approved in another state.
- Make using the fast-track approval process easier by removing the requirement that states must have one full extension before using this review approach.
- A willingness to help states wanting to incorporate work requirements for certain adult populations.
Announcements from HHS and CMS:

- Approve certain 1115 demonstrations for up to 10 years.
- Dedicate more time to assisting with innovative demonstrations by reducing certain reporting requirements.
- Speed up the 1115 waiver application process by including a “within 15-day” initial review of a state’s application.
Announcements from HHS and CMS:

- Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) Allotments, and Final and Preliminary Institutions for Mental Diseases Disproportionate Share Hospital Limits
- Cancellation of Advancing Care Coordination through Episode Payment and Cardiac Rehabilitation Incentive Payment Models
- Changes to the Medicare Advantage, Medicare Cost Plan, Medicare Fee-For-Service, The Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Programs and the PACE Program.
Congressional Updates:

- Senate Tax Bill- Inclusion of ACA Individual Mandate Repeal- projected savings of $338 Billion by CBO.
- Deal struck for inclusion of Alexander/Murray legislation to fund CSR payments for two years and expand 1332 waiver flexibility.
- CHIP, Community Health Centers and Medicare Extenders inclusion in CR deal.
- Consistent hearings in each chamber on opioid crisis.
- Recent confirmation hearing for HHS Secretary Nominee Alex Azar, vote to be scheduled.