

Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs



Regional Director Erin Tawney

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



IEA Mission Statement

Office of Intergovernmental & External Affairs (IEA)

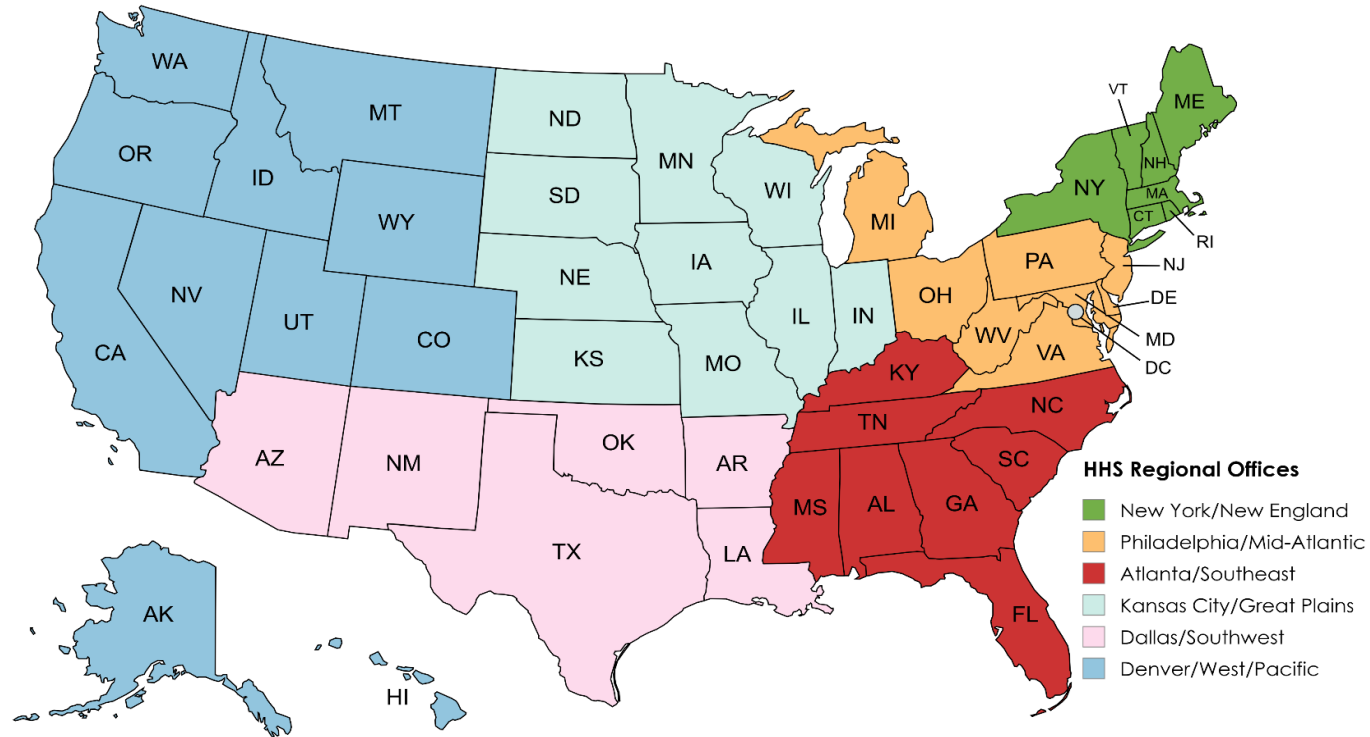
The Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs (IEA) serves as the Department's liaison to state, local, and tribal governments and non-governmental organizations. IEA facilitates communication between the Department and these stakeholders regarding HHS initiatives and policies.

IEA serves the dual role of representing the intergovernmental and external perspective in the federal policymaking process as well as clarifying the federal perspective to intergovernmental officials and external stakeholders. IEA aims to enhance communication and partnerships with local, state, and tribal governments as well as a variety of external partners such as, academia, private sector, labor unions, profit and not-for profit groups, and national organizations.

Think of us as the “front door” to the agency – we don’t engage with Congress or the press, but we do engage with everyone in between!



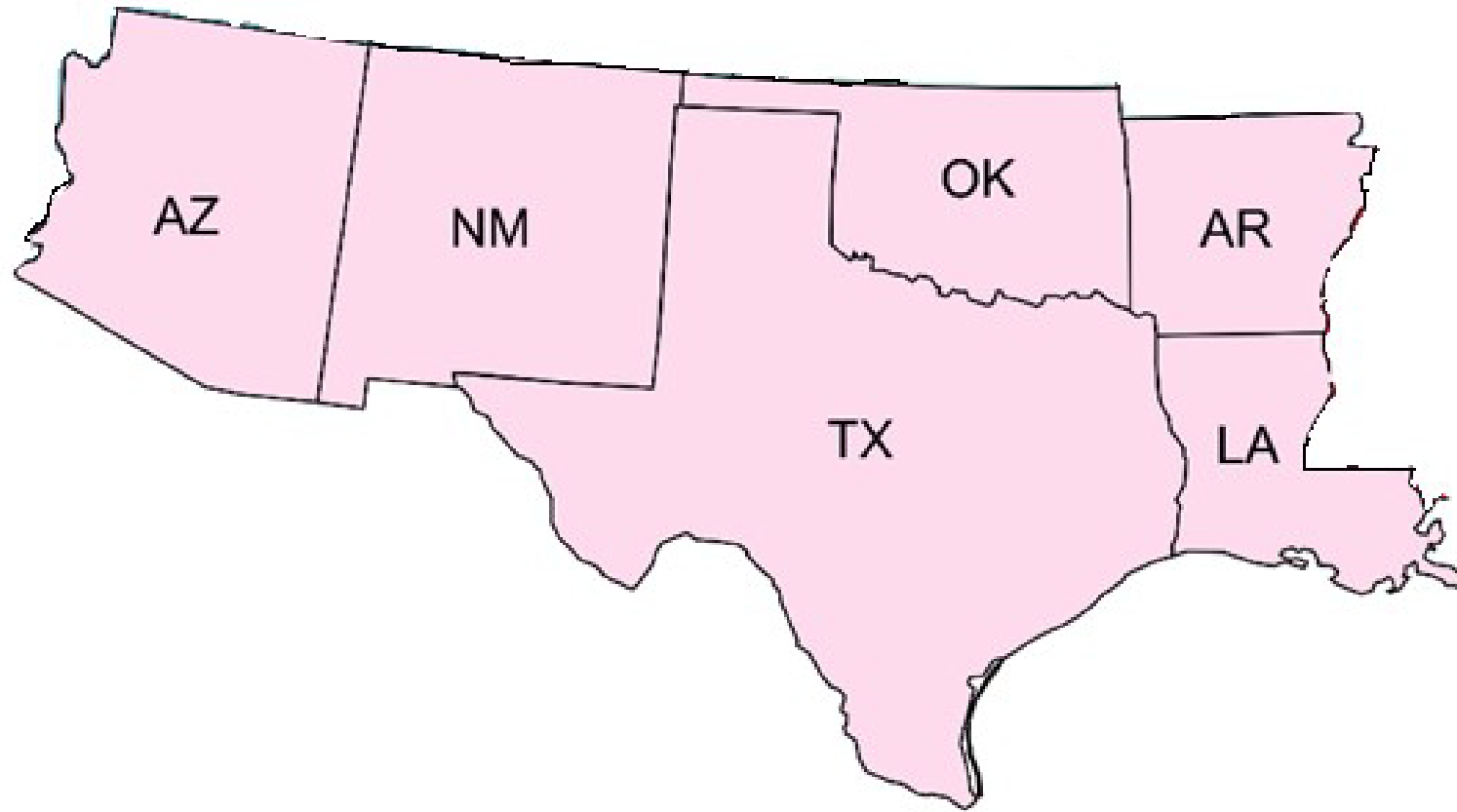
HHS Touches the Lives of All Americans



Created with mapchart.net



Dallas Region HHS



**HHS Dallas Region
Erin Tawney
Regional Director**



Meet the US Secretary of Health and Human Services



Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.



<https://x.com/SecKennedy>



<https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/secretarykennedy/>



<https://www.facebook.com/SecKennedy>



<https://www.instagram.com/seckennedy/>



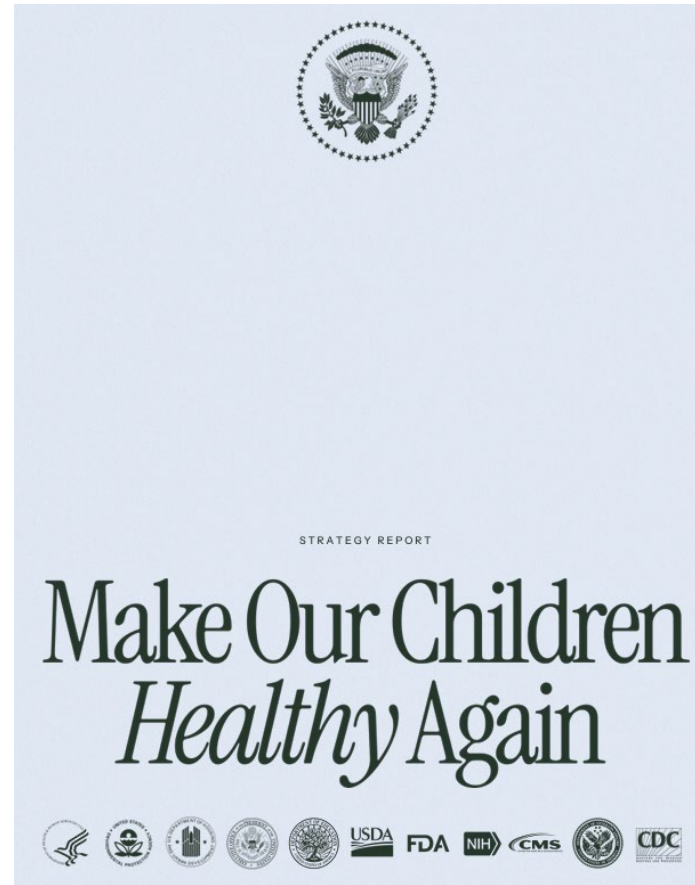
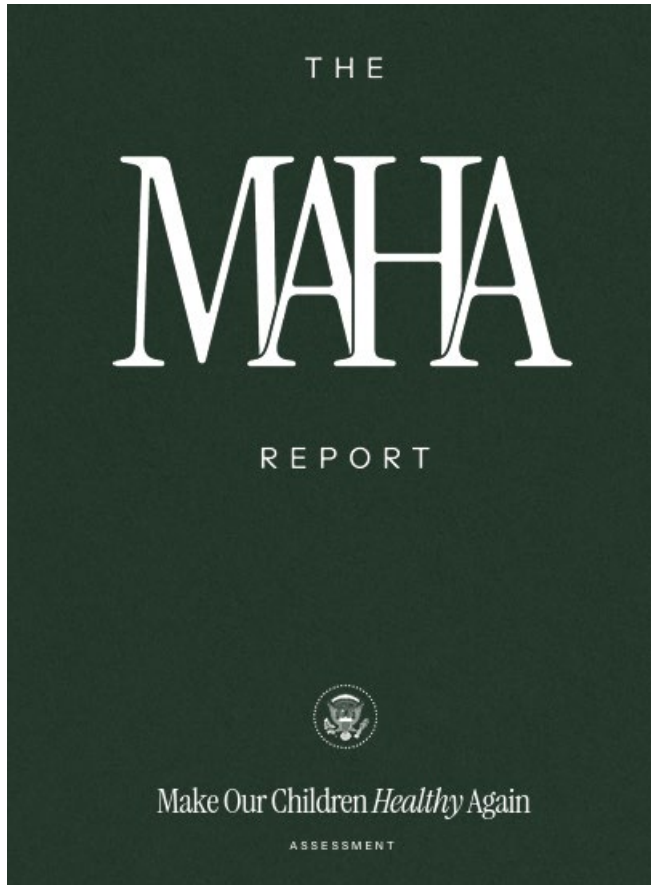
<https://truthsocial.com/@seckennedy>

Message:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6pbXrXGu_r-4



The MAHA Commission Report & Strategy



The **report** identifies four potential drivers behind the rise in childhood chronic disease that present the clearest opportunities for progress:

- Poor Diet
- Aggregation of Environmental Chemicals
- Lack of Physical Activity and Chronic Stress
- Overmedicalization

The **strategy** outlines a strategic approach for executive actions to address the childhood chronic disease crisis through advancing research, realigning incentives, increasing public awareness, and fostering private sector collaborations.

Read the MAHA Report and Strategy:
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/maha/>.



Big Wins



CELEBRATING BIG WINS OF THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) celebrates the success of the Trump administration. We continue to advance President Trump and HHS Secretary Kennedy's commitment to end the chronic disease epidemic and Make America Healthy Again (MAHA).

<https://www.hhs.gov/hhs-big-wins-maha/>

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Launch of landmark \$50 billion Rural Health Transformation Program
- Updated Covid-10 vaccine recommendations
- Actions to Simplify Prior Authorization
- Deregulation Executive Order (**Regulations.gov**)
- Most-Favored-Nation Prescription Drug Pricing Executive Order
- FDA AI-assisted Scientific Review Pilot
- Establishment of Presidential Commission to Make America Healthy Again
- Phasing Out Petroleum-based Dyes from our Food
- Autism Epidemic Action
- Overhauling FDA's "Generally Recognized as Safe" Designation
- Make America Healthy Again Tour and State Visits



HHS Priorities

Improving Food Quality and Fitness

- Bringing Nutrition to the Forefront of Fighting the Chronic Disease Epidemic
- Cracking Down on Harmful and Synthetic Additives in Our Food

Holding Bad Actors Accountable

- Prioritizing Transparency
- Putting a Stop to wide-spread Fraud, Waste, and Abuse

Lowering the Cost of Healthcare

- Tackling the Rising Prescription Drug Prices
- Making Real Reforms to Lower Health Insurance Premiums

Following the Science to Improve Patient Outcomes

- Ending Harmful, Unproven Practices
- Bring Rare Diseases Out of the Shadows



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The Chronic Disease Epidemic

America is sick.
The data is clear.

50%

of Americans have
prediabetes or diabetes

75%

of adults report having at
least one chronic condition

90%

of U.S. healthcare spending
goes to treating **chronic
disease**-much of which is
linked to diet and lifestyle

realfood.gov



Resetting Federal Nutrition Policy

Removing Soda and Candy from SNAP

- The USDA is working with states to prevent SNAP funds from being used for sugary drinks, ensuring more support goes toward nutrient-dense, real food.

Phasing Out Petroleum-Based Dyes from Food

- The Trump Administration is establishing a national standard and timeline for the food industry to phase out petroleum-based food dyes in favor of natural alternatives.

Ensuring More Facilities Serve Real Food

- The Trump Administration is updating federal procurement guidelines to ensure schools, Hospitals, and the military serve more delicious, real food.

Improving Infant Formula Standards

- The FDA is conducting its first full review of infant formula nutrition standards since 1998.

Overhauling the FDA's "Generally Recognized as Safe" (GRAS) Designation

- The FDA is strengthening transparency and requiring gold-standard safety analysis for future ingredients entering the U.S. food supply.



New Dietary Guidelines at REALFOOD.GOV

Real Food Starts Here

Better health begins on your plate—not in your medicine cabinet.
The new Dietary Guidelines for Americans defines real food as whole, nutrient-dense, and naturally occurring, placing them back at the center of our diets.

The New Pyramid



MAHAMAXXING

(MA•HA•MAX•XING) / noun

When Make America Healthy Again isn't just a slogan, it's a LIFESTYLE. Your groceries look like they came from the earth, not a lab. You're ending chronic disease, by taking back your health.



“When Make America Healthy Again isn’t just a slogan, it’s a LIFESTYLE. Your groceries look like they came from the earth, not a lab. You’re ending chronic disease, by taking back your health. “



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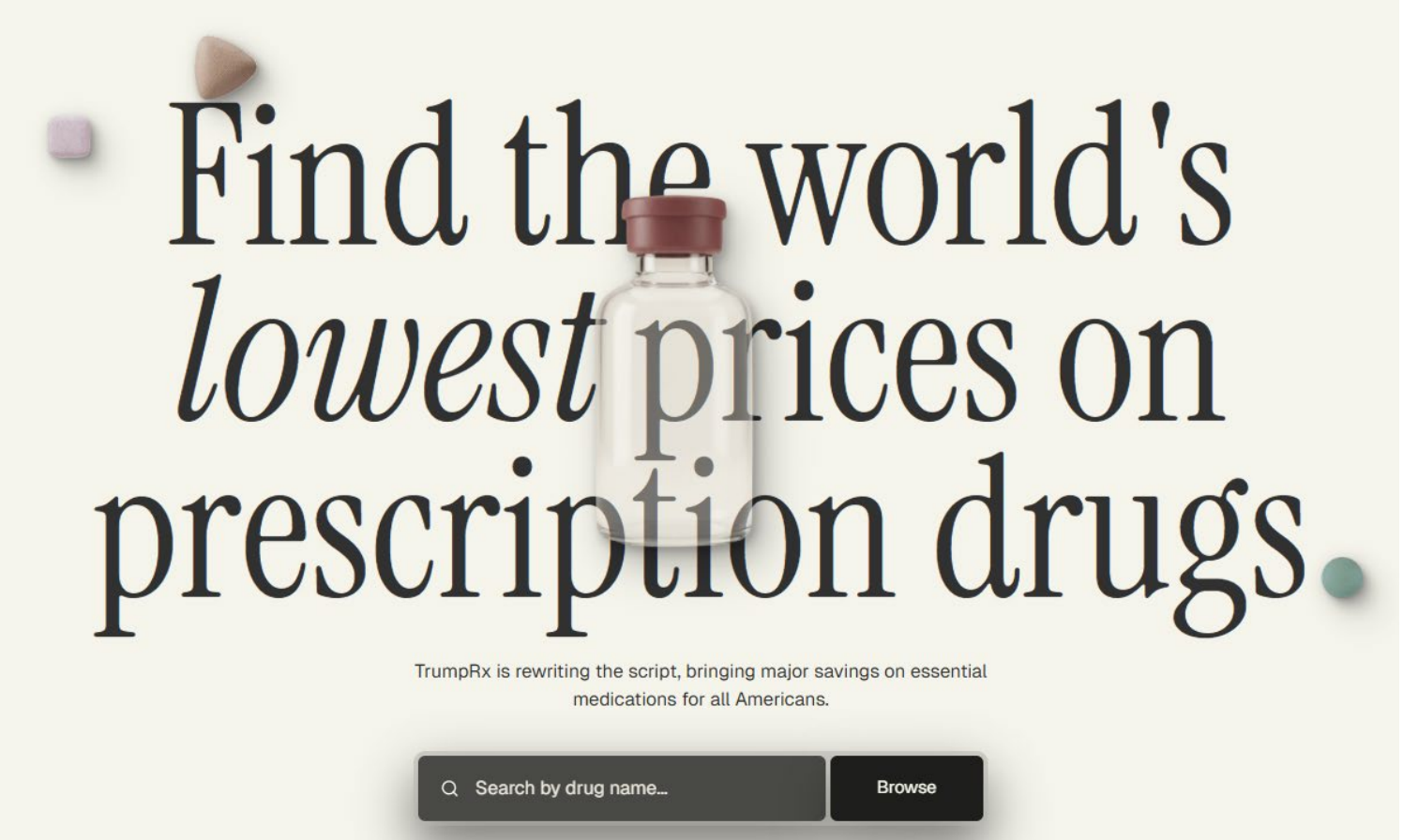


Lowering Drug Prices with TRUMPRX.GOV

**HISTORIC TRUMP Rx LAUNCH TO LOWER
DRUG PRICES FOR AMERICAN PATIENTS**

**DELIVERING LOWER COSTS ON THE MOST
POPULAR DRUGS**

**DELIVERING ON PROMISES TO PUT
AMERICAN PATIENTS FIRST**

An advertisement for TRUMPRX.GOV. The background is a light cream color with several pills (pink, brown, and green) scattered around. In the center is a clear glass pill bottle with a red cap. The text "Find the world's lowest prices on prescription drugs." is written in a large, serif font, with "lowest" in italics. Below the text is a small paragraph: "TrumpRx is rewriting the script, bringing major savings on essential medications for all Americans." At the bottom, there are two dark grey buttons: one with a magnifying glass icon and the text "Search by drug name..." and another with the text "Browse".

Find the world's
lowest prices on
prescription drugs.

TrumpRx is rewriting the script, bringing major savings on essential medications for all Americans.

Q Search by drug name... Browse

Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program

Arizona



Executive summary: Arizona addresses its rural health challenges across all 15 rural counties through workforce development and expanded access via telehealth and mobile clinics.

Funding
FY26

\$167M



Goals & Key Themes

- **Accessibility:** telehealth, mobile, and satellite care models.
- **Resiliency:** shared service models, subsidization of electronic health record licenses, reducing administrative barriers.
- **Workforce:** targeted incentive programs, scholarships, rural clinical rotations, retention programs, and career and technical education programs.
- **"Priority Health Initiatives:"** a variety of programs focused on behavioral health, chronic disease prevention and management, and maternal, fetal, and infant health.



Spotlight Initiatives

- Arizona proposes the establishment of new rural clinical rotations and residency slots at multiple universities and community colleges. The state plans to offer educational incentives and expanded opportunities for a variety of healthcare professionals, prioritizing students from rural communities who commit to working in rural communities.
- Infrastructure gaps limit Arizonans' telehealth participation, forcing rural residents to travel an average of 20 miles to reach a hospital or PCP. Arizona aspires to close access gaps by deploying mobile and satellite clinics, expanding telehealth hubs, and investing in digital modernization such as electronic billing capabilities and telehealth equipment.



Expected Impact

Proposed Outcomes:

- Increased rural provider recruitment, retention, and satisfaction
- Expanded telehealth adoption statewide
- Improved maternal/infant outcomes, chronic disease management, behavioral health outcomes
- Increased participation in preventive care services, leading to:
 - Fewer hospitalizations
 - Less reliance on emergency services

State Policy Actions:

- Commitment to join PA and EMS compacts by 2028

Thank you!

**Contact Information:
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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

