Proposed rule covers anti-trans discrimination

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced proposed rules to implement the anti-discrimination provisions of the Affordable Care Act, Section 1557. The laws ban discrimination in many health facilities and insurance plans based on race, national origin, sex, age, disability, and many other criteria, including bias based on gender identity.

The proposed rules state that transgender patients must cover medically necessary medications. They also other health plans for gender dysphoria for transgender people if they cover similar services to non-transgender people with other medical conditions.

In response to this development, National Center for Transgender Equality Executive Director Mara Keil said in a statement: “The Department of Health and Human Services proposed it has the potential to be lifesaving for transgender people.

“The medical and scientific consensus is that for patients with transition-related care is medically necessary and should be covered by insurance. Many systems have not yet covered these services because it is the right thing to do from a medical, perspective, from a fairness and human rights perspective, and because it can save them money.”

National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) Policy Director Julie Gonen, Esq. said in a statement, “Today, HHS has taken a major step to ensure that all transgender individuals will have access to life-saving affirming care that is consistent with the prevailing standard of care.”

LGBTQI award funding $282K to local groups

The LGBTQ Community Fund (the LGBTQI Fund), at the Chicago Community Foundation (the Trust), has announced it has chosen 12 organizations as grant recipients.

A total of $261,500 in grants will be presented to the organizations at a breakfast reception Oct. 7 at the offices of the Chicago Community Trust.

The following organizations will receive grants ranging from $10,000 to $25,000. Abolish Face Policy, After University’s LGBTQI Mentality, Health and Inclusion Center, Affirm, the Lesbian-Straight and Bisexual Community Services, Affirm, and Robert M. Lurie Women’s Hospital of Chicago, Affirm, an affiliate of the University of Chicago Hospital, the Chicago Lesbian Community Center, Leather Archives and Museum, Inc., Project Pico, Chicago, Bread, Community, Oakland community, Women’s Martial Arts and Self-Defense Center, Transformative Justice Project, and the Youth Empowerment Project.

The second cycle of grant making is designated as Transformation Grants, and will range from $50,000 to $100,000 each.

This cycle will begin later this year and the next cycle will begin later in 2016. HHS has taken a major step to ensure that all transgender individuals will have access to life-saving affirming care that is consistent with the prevailing standard of care.