Proposed Changes in IRB Process
The Department of Health and Human Services is finally proposing to streamline and improve the Institutional Review Board (IRB) process of reviewing research involving human subjects. The proposed changes are described in the Advance Notice of Proposed Rule-Making (ANPRM) for Human Subjects Research Protections: Enhancing Protections for Research Subjects and Reducing Burden, Delay, and Ambiguity for Researchers (Federal Register, 76 (43), Tuesday, July 26, 2011).

You can access the proposed changes, a table comparing existing rules with the proposed changes, and directions on how to submit and browse comments at http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/humansubjects/anprm2011page.html. Note the October 26th deadline for comments!

For the recommendations of the AEA Committee on Government Relations go to Comments on Revisions in Common Rule.

Funding Opportunities in Health Economics at NIH
The NIH Common Fund in Health Economics has issued two new announcements, designed to stimulate economic research on the re-designs and reforms in financing and organizational changes in health care:

- Economic Studies Ancillary to Completed or Ongoing Health Care Delivery and Financing Pilots, Demonstrations, and Other Experiments (R01)
  RFA-RM-11-023

- Phased Economic Studies Ancillary to Planned Health Care Delivery and Financing Pilots, Demonstrations, and Other Experiments (R21/R33)
  RFA-RM-11-024

Applications are due Feb 8, 2012