

About the Center for Health Care Strategies

The Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS) is a nonprofit health policy resource center dedicated to improving health care quality for low-income children and adults, people with chronic illnesses and disabilities, frail elders, and racially and ethnically diverse populations experiencing disparities in care. We work directly with state and federal agencies, health plans, providers, and consumer groups to develop innovative programs that better serve people with complex and high-cost health care needs.

Our Priorities

Improving quality and reducing racial and ethnic disparities.

Medicaid serves over 65 million Americans including a significant portion who are racially and ethnically diverse. Quality outcomes for Medicaid are significantly lower than those for commercial insurance. CHCS is working to close the gap by improving the quality of care for Medicaid beneficiaries particularly for those who are racially and ethnically diverse.

Integrating care for people with complex and special needs.

Children and adults with complex needs account for a substantial portion — up to 80% — of total Medicaid spending. CHCS is supporting practical, cost-effective solutions to integrate care for beneficiaries of publicly financed care, especially those with complex chronic conditions associated with aging and disability.

Building Medicaid leadership and capacity. Medicaid plays a critical role in the national health system in terms of expanding coverage, improving health care quality, and controlling costs. CHCS is building the leadership capacity of state Medicaid directors and other key stakeholders to effectively manage and pursue innovations that can help lead the nation toward a better health care system for all.

Our Approach

For close to 15 years, CHCS has partnered with Medicaid policymakers and stakeholders at the ground level to develop better models of organizing, financing, and delivering health care services, especially for those with chronic illnesses and disabilities. We provide training and technical assistance to strengthen the capacity of states and health plans and establish local, state, and national partnerships to reduce disparities and drive system-level improvements in care. Our work informs national health policy decision making and helps translate policy into action in states across the country.

By focusing quality improvement on Medicaid's highest-risk, highest-cost populations, states and health plans can improve health outcomes, invest limited public dollars more effectively, and ultimately, by controlling costs, free up resources to expand health care coverage for more Americans.

Following is a sample of our national initiatives:

Reducing Disparities at the Practice Site: Multi-stakeholder teams are seeking to reduce disparities and improve diabetes care by focusing on supporting small practices that serve large numbers of racially and ethnically diverse consumers.

Aligning Forces for Quality Technical Assistance: Regional health care quality collaboratives are using Medicaid performance and race and ethnicity data to drive physician-level public reporting and improvement.

Rethinking Care Program: State-based, multi-stakeholder collaboratives are developing and testing new care models for Medicaid's highest-need, highest-cost adult beneficiaries.

Improving Outcomes for Children Involved in Child Welfare: Managed care organizations are developing and piloting promising approaches to improve the delivery of physical and mental health care for children in child welfare.

Transforming Care for Dual Eligibles: States are designing approaches to integrate the financing and delivery of acute and long-term care for adults who are dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare.

Medicaid Leadership Institute: Medicaid directors are participating in this leadership development program to enhance the skills needed to transform their state programs into national models for high-quality, cost-effective care.

Our Funders

CHCS was established in 1995 with a major grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Since then, CHCS has received support from a variety of funders committed to innovative solutions for publicly financed care, including:

- Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
- The Annie E. Casey Foundation
- California HealthCare Foundation
- The Colorado Health Foundation
- The Commonwealth Fund
- The David and Lucille Packard Foundation
- Kaiser Permanente Community Benefit
- New York State Health Foundation
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Mission
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