

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 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 nearly 60 million Americans including many who are racially and ethnically diverse. Quality outcomes in Medicaid are significantly lower than commercial insurance. CHCS is working to close the gap by improving care delivery for Medicaid beneficiaries.

Integrating care for people with complex and special needs. Children and adults with complex needs account for a substantial portion of total Medicaid spending. CHCS is supporting practical, cost-effective solutions to integrate care for Medicaid beneficiaries, especially those with chronic illnesses and disabilities.

Building Medicaid leadership and capacity. Medicaid plays a critical role in the nation's health system. CHCS is building the leadership capacity of state and health plan leaders to effectively manage and pursue innovations that can help lead the nation toward a better health care system for all.

Our Approach

For 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 people 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 high-risk, high-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 coverage for more Americans.

Following is a sample of our initiatives:

Reducing Disparities at the Practice Site: Multi-stakeholder teams are seeking to reduce disparities by supporting small practices serving mainly racially and ethnically diverse consumers.

Aligning Forces for Quality Technical Assistance: Regional 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 beneficiaries.

Improving Outcomes for Children Involved in Child Welfare: Managed care organizations are piloting new approaches to improve 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 care for adults who are dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare.

Medicaid Leadership Institute: Medicaid directors are participating in this year-long fellowship 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:

- Aetna Foundation
- 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
- New York State Health Foundation
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- United Hospital Fund