

Frequently Asked Questions | Building State Capacity for Community-Informed Policymaking Learning and Action Series

Following are questions posed by Medicaid stakeholders interested in the Center for Health Care Strategies' (CHCS) recently announced [***Building State Capacity for Community-Informed Policymaking Learning and Action Series***](#). Please direct additional questions to Anna Spencer, CHCS Senior Program Officer, at aspencer@chcs.org.

1. **What constitutes a community partner/entity?**

CHCS encourages states to be brave and consider partnering with entities with whom they may not have previously interacted. This inclusive approach can help improve relationships with Medicaid members who are not often heard or represented. Examples of community entities include community-serving organizations, social services agencies, grassroots advocacy groups, cultural groups, non-profits, and faith-based organizations.

2. **Should states consider new partners for their projects?**

New partners can bring innovative approaches and perspectives to your project. That said, CHCS appreciates that states may have an existing and/or longstanding partnership with a community entity in place, and we welcome their inclusion on the state team.

3. **How much will the program integrate the Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC) component of the new Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) rule?**

The program will focus on implementing the principles of the Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC) but will also address the intersection between the two groups based on each state's circumstances.

4. **If states already have a BAC-type structure, does that preclude them from applying for this opportunity?**

No. The *Learning and Action Series* will support states interested in strengthening an existing or developing a new Beneficiary Advisory Council-like structure.

5. **Is there a maximum of participants per state?**

No. We understand that the composition of teams will depend on various factors individualized for each state. Please note that CHCS will provide support (travel/lodging) for two participants per state to attend the in-person kickoff meeting.

6. **Will there be an opportunity for states not selected to learn about BAC implementation promising practices?**

Yes. The *Learning and Action Series* will develop a number of resources and publications to highlight state experiences with BAC implementation and lessons learned at the conclusion of the project period.

7. Will CMS representatives be involved in the *Learning and Action Series*?

CMS has not been invited to participate in the *Learning and Action Series*.

8. Would the \$25K funding still be available for states already engaging a community entity?

One participating community entity from each state (1 per state) will have access to the re-grant dollars regardless of the stage of engagement with the state.

9. Are there any issues with re-granting to a quasi-governmental community entity?

States should partner — or be prepared to partner — with a community entity that is able to bring Medicaid lived experience to the design and implementation of the BAC. If a quasi-governmental entity meets this requirement, they would be eligible for the regrant.

10. Will CHCS provide guidance about how we can help participants calculate the potential implications of the funding since CMS noted that this will still count as income? For non-MAGI members, will you help states with the SPA process?

We believe states have tools to support members' participation without affecting eligibility; however, as noted in the question, CMS determines what constitutes countable income. CHCS can be a thought partner with states on potential solutions, but it will be up to the states to ensure compliance with CMS regulations.

11. What are key project dates?

- **Optional Letter of Intent Due Date:** April 30
- **Application Due Date:** May 30
- **Notification of Selected Teams:** Late June
- **Project Kick-Off:** July
- **In-person Meeting:** Fall 2024
- **Program Period:** July 2024 to August 2025

12. Is a Letter of Intent mandatory for the application?

No, submitting a Letter of Intent by April 30 is not mandatory.

13. When will the program officially start, and what is its duration?

The program will begin in July 2024 and run through August 2025 (14 months).