

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 help them develop and deliver better care to this population.

Our Priorities

Enhancing access to coverage and services. Under health reform, Medicaid is poised to serve more than a quarter of all Americans. CHCS is helping states to understand the care needs of the expansion population and streamline linkages between Medicaid and the insurance exchanges.

Improving quality and reducing racial and ethnic disparities. Medicaid currently serves more than 60 million Americans, including many from racial and ethnic minority populations. Quality outcomes in Medicaid are significantly lower than in commercial insurance. CHCS is working to close the gap by improving health care quality for all Medicaid beneficiaries.

Integrating care for people with complex needs. Children and adults with complex needs account for a substantial portion of Medicaid spending. CHCS is advancing practical, cost-effective solutions to integrate care for beneficiaries 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 to improve the nation's health care system.

Our Approach

Since 1995, 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 invest limited public dollars more efficiently to improve health outcomes and redirect resources to expand coverage for more Americans. Following are sample CHCS initiatives:

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

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.

Technical Assistance for State Health Reform Assistance Network: Working closely with 10 states to expand Medicaid to newly eligible populations and establish smooth linkages between Medicaid and the new insurance exchanges.

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

Care Management Entities for Children with Serious Behavioral Health Needs: State-based teams are working to improve quality and reduce costs for Medicaid/CHIP-enrolled children with serious behavioral health issues.

Our Funders

CHCS was established in 1995 with a major grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Since then, we have received support from a variety of additional 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
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
- The Colorado Health Foundation
- The Commonwealth Fund
- Kaiser Permanente
- New York State Health Foundation
- The SCAN Foundation
- UnitedHealthcare