

## Health Care Reform

Over the past two decades, states were the locus of health care reform in the U.S., and their efforts served as a roadmap for achieving the first step in national, comprehensive reform. Community Catalyst brings the knowledge and experience gained in states across the country to inform national efforts by providing timely policy analysis and tools to ensure consumer priorities are heard in Washington, D.C. We work with consumer advocacy organizations in nearly 40 states to improve health care quality, access and affordability. States are responsible for implementing national policies and have a critical role in ensuring the Affordable Care Act is ultimately successful. Local advocates play an integral role by representing consumers when programs are established and rules and guidelines are set. We also work with state advocates to educate policymakers and the public about Medicaid's effectiveness and to protect the program.

To support enrollment through the Affordable Care Act, Community Catalyst, in partnership with NHeLP, created a private online community where people who are engaged in helping individuals enroll in health insurance can interact with each other. Members of the community communicate with other enrollment specialists across the country to share best practices, successes and lessons learned. They are able to ask questions and hear how other enrollment specialists have overcome similar challenges in a safe and protected environment that nurtures learning and information exchange.

Our **Affordable Care Act Implementation Fund** makes timely and strategic investments in crucial state-based advocacy initiatives that will maximize the impact state consumer advocates have on implementation nationwide. It supports work focused on specific policy outcomes using the tools of public education, policy and legal advocacy, communications, coalition-building, and grassroots organizing and mobilization in support of the law. The fund supports the **Close the Gap** campaign to expand health care coverage in states that have yet to accept federal dollars for Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act.

**The State Consumer Health Advocacy Program** works to support and expand the capacity of consumer advocates to participate in and influence public policy on a broad range of local issues, including delivery system reform, private insurance reform and maintaining a safety net for immigrant and other uninsured populations. **Consumer Voices for Coverage**, a joint initiative of Community Catalyst and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, supports states in their national and state advocacy efforts to expand health care coverage. **Southern Health Partners** works with advocacy organizations in 12 states, to apply a regional approach to Medicaid defense and expansion, health care Marketplaces, charity care and community benefit, substance use disorders, and other local and state health policy issues that present a challenge in the region.

## Children's Health

Access to quality, affordable care helps our children develop into healthy, productive and happy adults. We build coalitions with community leaders, educators, pediatricians, hospitals and businesses to improve children's health at the state and national levels. **New England Alliance for Children's Health** works to expand coverage and improve access to quality health care for children in all six New England states. The **Community Catalyst Alliance for Children's Health** builds on this successful advocacy model by expanding Community Catalyst's children's work beyond New England and into Arizona, Ohio and Virginia.

### **Chronically Ill & Dually Eligible Populations**

Navigating the health care system is an exhausting challenge for some of the most vulnerable Americans: those with chronic conditions and those who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. They face greater challenges in making their way through the health care labyrinth. Through the ***Voices for Better Health*** Program, Community Catalyst works to promote integrated care that places individuals and families at the center of care planning and delivery, and that coordinates care across services.

### **Community Health**

Improving access to health care and the health system aren't the only ways to improve people's health. Work at the community level—whether it's to address social and economic factors such as education and income that greatly impact health or a pressing local public health issue—can have a powerful impact on improving the health of communities. Through the ***Roadmaps to Health Community Grants program***, Community Catalyst builds on our longtime focus on community engagement by bringing local stakeholders together around common goals and equipping them with the tools to succeed.

### **Hospital Financial Assistance and Community Benefits**

Hospitals are an integral part of our health care safety net. Many receive significant public funds or are exempted from taxes in exchange for their commitment to provide community benefits, including financial assistance and health programs that meet identified community needs. Community Catalyst's ***Hospital Accountability Project*** works with advocates across the country to implement hospital practices that protect families from financial devastation due to medical debt, allow the uninsured and underinsured to receive needed health care services, and involve the community in health planning. We also work at the federal level to promote public policies that set clear standards for hospital community benefits and financial assistance.

### **Oral Health**

With 83 million Americans lacking access to dental care, we need to find ways to improve the system. The ***Dental Access Project*** is a partnership between Community Catalyst and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to expand access to oral health care by working with state advocates to promote innovative workforce solutions. The project aims to expand the successful deployment of dental therapists to provide care to rural and low-income populations who lack access to dental care.

### **Substance Use Disorders**

About 23 million Americans suffer from alcohol and drug addiction, but only a fraction get the treatment they need. The overall cost in lives and in dollars is enormous. Community Catalyst works to improve care for substance use disorders and further integrate it into our existing health care delivery system. At the state level, we work with local advocates to improve coverage, access and treatment. Our federal work centers on the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, parity for substance use disorders, and protecting funding for the safety-net and addiction programs.