



2020 Hepatitis C Medicaid Affinity Group: Fact Sheet

Overview

The Hepatitis C Medicaid Affinity Group was launched in December 2017 with the aim of increasing the number and percentage of people diagnosed with hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection who are successfully treated and cured. Eight states participated in Year 1 of the Affinity Group. Nine states participated in Year 2, which had an optional focus on correctional settings. For the third year (2020), the Affinity Group aims to support the continued efforts of states already participating in the group and help new state participants develop and implement custom strategies, including exploring issues and strategies related to hepatitis C screening and treatment in substance use disorder (SUD) treatment sites if the state chooses this emphasis. The Affinity Group aims to encourage collaboration between Medicaid, public health authorities, state corrections agencies, and starting in 2020, state behavioral health agencies working on SUD initiatives. We expect that each state will receive a stipend of approximately \$5,000-\$10,000 to support coordination activities.

Affinity Group Partners

The Office of Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Policy (OIDP) in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will coordinate the Hepatitis C Medicaid Affinity Group with active collaboration with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and the Office of Minority Health. Subject matter experts from collaborating federal partners will support the Affinity Group by providing technical assistance, consultation, and feedback.

Affinity Group Activities

- Development of an Action Plan with planned strategies and activities for improving hepatitis C treatment and regular reporting of progress
- Monthly calls with states and subject matter experts
- Two in-person conferences in Washington, DC with states and subject matter experts

Benefits to State Participants

- Direct technical assistance that supports improved hepatitis C-related outcomes among Medicaid beneficiaries through better coordination, delivery, and assessment of high-quality hepatitis C prevention, treatment, and cure
- Opportunity for states to learn and share promising approaches to improve health outcomes and reduce costs by successfully treating and curing Medicaid beneficiaries diagnosed with chronic hepatitis C
- Stronger collaborative relationships between state Medicaid programs and other state partners (public or private) who are well-positioned to advise and support efforts for maximum impact

In order to participate, states must submit a completed Expression of Interest Form. The Expression of Interest form is due back to Corinna Dann at Corinna.Dan@hhs.gov by Friday, November 1, 2019 at 5:00 PM EST. Click [here](#) for more information about the Hepatitis C Medicaid Affinity Group.