



TRANSITIONS CLINIC NETWORK

Program Type: Employment and healthcare program for individuals with a history of incarceration.

Agency and Location: Transitions Clinic Network (TCN) provides services in multiple clinics across 10 states (CA, TX, AR, AL, NC, MD, NY, MA, CT, and RI) and Puerto Rico.

Population Served: Chronically ill individuals recently released from incarceration and individuals with histories of incarceration seeking employment as community health workers.

Program Description: TCN is a national network of clinics that have implemented the Transitions Clinic Program, a patient-centered primary care initiative that aims to improve health and reentry outcomes for individuals with complex chronic diseases returning from incarceration. By employing community health workers with histories of incarceration, TCN sites can address patients' health and well-being, and provides employment opportunities in the healthcare sector for formerly incarcerated individuals, which helps them to successfully reenter society. All TCN programs provide access to high-quality medical care, integrated behavioral health services, and seek to address social determinants of health. Recognizing these areas as essential components for successful reentry helps create healthier and safer communities.

Employing people with histories of incarceration is essential to providing comprehensive and culturally competent care to returning individuals and trying to reduce recidivism. To fully prepare individuals for their role as a community health worker at TCN, all community health workers complete a specialized online training program.

Results: [TCN has been shown](#) to decrease healthcare expenditures for the community. When compared to connecting reentering individuals to expedited primary care clinic appointments, those receiving services at TCN had 50 percent fewer emergency department visits.

Program Perspective: Jerry Smart, a community health worker with a history of incarceration, explains the importance of his role for ensuring individuals stay out of prison, "As a society, we tend to put healthcare on the back burner, but most of these guys never had a primary care physician. If you get an illness that prevents you from working, how are you supposed to survive? Relapse is just around the corner."

Federal Funding Streams Used: Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation

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