

Join the HIV Health Improvement Affinity Group

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) *Medicaid Prevention Learning Network* supports state Medicaid agencies in improving access to, utilization of, and quality of preventive services. As part of this initiative, CMS has created Affinity Groups for state Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) agencies to learn from one another and receive technical assistance around CMS priority areas. Since Medicaid is the single largest source of health care coverage for persons living with HIV (PLWH) in the United States, the [Federal National HIV/AIDS Strategy: Updated to 2020](#), calls upon CMS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to collaboratively build upon the CMS Affinity Group platform to launch a new HIV Health Improvement Affinity Group. This group will bring together state public health and Medicaid/CHIP agencies to identify opportunities for improvement in the [HIV care continuum](#) for their Medicaid and CHIP enrolled, HIV-infected residents. Participating states will develop and implement one or more performance improvement projects that address gaps along the HIV care continuum to increase the proportion of Medicaid and CHIP enrollees living with HIV who achieve better outcomes along the HIV care continuum.

Goal/Purpose

Support state collaborations between public health and Medicaid programs to improve rates of sustained virologic suppression among Medicaid and CHIP enrollees who are living with HIV.

Benefits to State Participants:

- Direct technical assistance that supports improved HIV-related outcomes among Medicaid and CHIP enrollees through better organization, coordination, delivery, and assessment of high quality HIV prevention, care, and related support services
- An opportunity for state to state learning and sharing of best and promising approaches to improve viral load suppression among PLWH who are enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP
- Stronger collaborative relationships among state Medicaid/CHIP programs, state public health departments, and other partners (public or private; federal, state, or local) who are well positioned to advise and support efforts for maximum impact

Core Participants

- State Medicaid agency staff who will support the project to improve access to, utilization of, and quality of HIV preventive and care services
- State health department staff who will coordinate with State Medicaid/CHIP programs to support and extend their efforts to bolster access to, utilization of, and quality of HIV preventive and care services among Medicaid eligible and enrolled populations
- Staff from CDC, CMS, and HRSA, who will provide or facilitate access to needed technical assistance
- State teams may also include other state and local partners, such as primary care associations (PCAs), federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), local health departments, and other relevant public and private entities.

Commitment

- Submission of the expression of interest form that identifies the state's proposed project and goal(s), identifies team members, and indicates support of both the state AIDS Director and Medicaid leadership
- Participation in monthly state team calls with CMS, CDC, and HRSA for 12 months beginning in November 2016
- Participation in monthly HIV Health Improvement Affinity Group virtual meetings with other states and quality improvement experts
- Attendance at HIV Health Improvement Affinity Group kick-off meeting, to be held in Washington D.C. on October 11th and 12th, 2016

Join Us

To participate in the HIV Health Improvement Affinity Group, please return your expression of interest form to: MedicaidCHIPPrevention@cms.hhs.gov by August 1, 2016. If you have additional questions about this opportunity, please send them to Abigail Viall, aviall@cdc.gov or 404-639-2010.

