

Healthier Washington Medicaid Transformation Transformation through Accountable Communities of Health

In 2017, Washington State and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized an agreement for a five-year Medicaid transformation project to improve the state's health care systems, provide better health care, and control costs.

Nine regional Accountable Communities of Health (ACH) form robust organizations under which a fast-growing number of providers and partner organizations are collaborating to transform Washington's health care and delivery systems.

Thinking globally about systems change: paying for value

The federal government, and many states, recognize that integrated, value-based health systems control costs and foster population health. Federal investments in transformation are helping Washington create this new system, spend Medicaid dollars more wisely and improve the health of Washington's people and communities.

One of the most critical elements of change is restructuring the rewards system for providers. This means exchanging the traditional fee-for-service model, for a value-based system that rewards long-term outcomes. Value is where affordable costs meet high-quality care.

The state, the ACHs, and a growing number of partners are designing innovative ways to support primary and behavioral health care providers as they adopt a new business model that integrates whole-person care in value-based encounters.

The work is integrated so that the efforts of each region support the success of the entire state. The projects are regionally designed to respect local communities, tribal governments, conditions, challenges and opportunities.

Acting locally by changing the Medicaid delivery system for communities

ACHs and their regional partners are devising local strategies to address agreed-upon Transformation projects. The projects fall within three domains:

- Health systems and community capacity building
- Care delivery redesign
- Prevention and health promotion

What is an Accountable Community of Health (ACH)?

An ACH is a group of leaders from a variety of sectors within a region with a common interest in improving health. ACHs address health needs where they occur—at the local level.

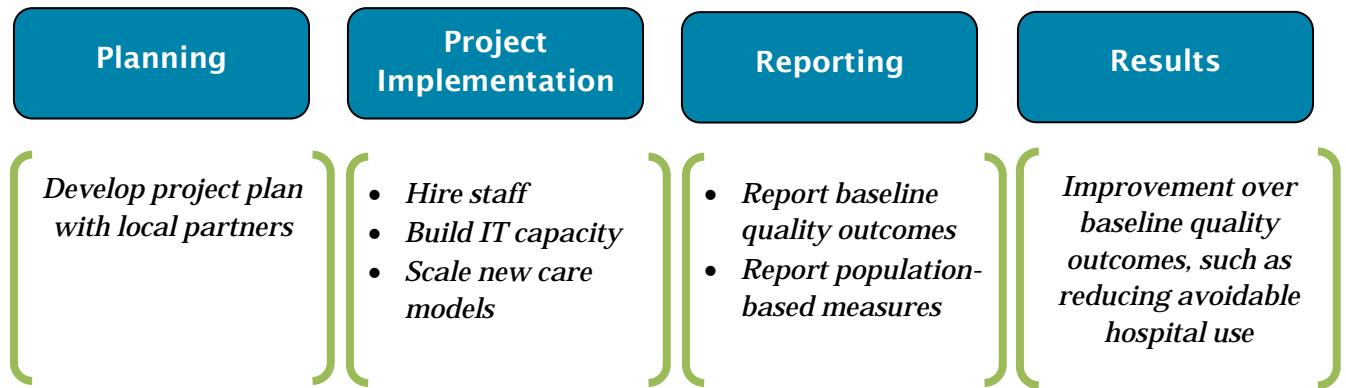
There are nine ACHs that, together, cover the entire state. With support from the state, these ACHs are jointly implementing health-related projects and advising state agencies on how to address health needs in their area.

For more information, go to the Accountable Communities of Health page at www.hca.wa.gov/hw.

The role of federal funding

Federal Transformation funding is not a grant. ACHs and their partners receive funds only after they meet pre-determined milestones for planning, implementation, reporting, and improving upon outcomes. At each point, the work is assessed and approved by independent, contracted entities specializing in health care systems and related work.

Examples of incentive payment milestones



Adapted from [Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission \(MACPAC\), Report to Congress on Medicaid and CHIP](#), June 2015,

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Note: These programs are funded through a federal 1115 waiver, issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Funding is not a grant. The state must demonstrate that it will not spend more federal dollars on its Medicaid program with this project than it would have without it.