COVERAGE TO CARE is an initiative to help people understand their health coverage and connect to the primary care and preventive services that are right for them, so they can live a long and healthy life.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Office of Minority Health (CMS OMH) is one of eight offices of minority health within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). CMS OMH works with local and federal partners to eliminate health disparities while improving the health of people from all minority populations, including members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.

CMS FRAMEWORK FOR HEALTH EQUITY

CMS OMH released the CMS Framework for Health Equity to address health disparities as a foundational element across all our work – in every program and across every community. Using five priority areas, CMS will use this framework to design, implement, and operationalize policies and programs to support health for all people served by our programs, eliminating avoidable differences in health outcomes experienced by people who are disadvantaged or underserved, and providing the care and support that our enrollees need to thrive. The framework’s structure consists of five priority areas:

- **Priority 1:** Expand the Collection, Reporting, and Analysis of Standardized Data
- **Priority 2:** Assess Causes of Disparities Within CMS Programs and Address Inequities in Policies and Operations to Close Gaps
- **Priority 3:** Build Capacity of Health Care Organizations and the Workforce to Reduce Health and Health Care Disparities
- **Priority 4:** Advance Language Access, Health Literacy, and the Provision of Culturally Tailored Services
- **Priority 5:** Increase All Forms of Accessibility to Health Care Services and Coverage

OUR MISSION

CMS OMH will lead the advancement and integration of health equity in the development, evaluation, and implementation of CMS’s policies, programs, and partnerships.

OUR VISION

All those served by CMS have achieved the highest level of health and well-being, and we have eliminated disparities in health care quality and access.

OUR WORK

The Data Analysis initiative provides useful information for targeting quality improvement activities and resources, monitoring health and drug plan performance, and advancing the development of culturally and linguistically appropriate quality improvement interventions and strategies. As part of this initiative, CMS OMH develops Data Snapshots and Data Highlights, which examine policy issues and data from CMS and other federal sources aimed at eliminating health disparities.

Through its Rural Health initiative, CMS OMH is developing programs and policies that ensure rural Americans have access to high quality care, support rural providers and not disadvantage them, address the unique economics of providing health care in rural America, and reduce unnecessary burdens in a stretched system to advance our commitment to improving health outcomes for Americans living in rural areas.

CMS OMH administers the Minority Research Grant Program, which supports researchers at minority serving institutions that are exploring how CMS can better meet the health care needs of racial and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, sexual and gender minorities, and rural populations.

Health Equity Technical Assistance is available to health care organizations ready to systematically take action on health disparities. The program offers personalized coaching and resources on developing a health equity strategic plan; resources on improving care for the populations we represent, and rural populations; data collection and analysis; and help developing a language access plan.

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