

CMS OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH



The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Office of Minority Health (CMS OMH) is one of the eight offices of minority health within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Office works with local and federal partners to eliminate health disparities while improving the health of people from all minority populations, including people from racial and ethnic minorities; people with disabilities; members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community; individuals with limited English proficiency; and rural communities.



OUR MISSION

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Office of Minority Health (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 their highest level of health and well-being, and we have eliminated disparities in health care quality and access.



CMS FRAMEWORK FOR HEALTH EQUITY

CMS released an updated framework to further advance health equity, expand coverage, and improve health outcomes for the more than 170 million individuals supported by CMS programs. The framework sets foundation and priorities for CMS's work strengthening its infrastructure for assessment, creating synergies across the health care system to drive structural change, and identifying and working to eliminate barriers to CMS-supported benefits, services, and coverage. 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 WORK

To ensure that minority health interests are represented, CMS OMH participates in the development of CMS policies, regulations, plans and programs; coordinates minority health initiatives within CMS; and engages key stakeholders in the conversation.



Health Equity Conference — This health policy forum convenes leaders in health equity from federal and local agencies, health provider organizations, academia, community-based organizations, and others, both in person and virtually, to hear from CMS leadership on recent developments and updates to CMS programs; explore the latest health equity research; discuss promising practices and creative solutions; and collaborate on community engagement strategies.



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. Review our [CMS Framework for Advancing Health Care in Rural, Tribal and Geographically Isolated Communities](#) to learn more about what CMS is doing to advance health equity for rural communities, geographically isolated communities, territories, and Tribal communities.



Minority Research Grant Program (MRGP) — MRGP 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.



The Data Analysis Initiative — This 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.



Health Equity Technical Assistance — This program 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.



COVERAGE TO CARE

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

CMS recently launched a "Community Connections Tour" that partners with local organizations to bring C2C resources to diverse communities across the country to help educate people about how to get the most out of their coverage to reach their health goals.

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