

Report on Conferences Sponsored by CMS for Fiscal Year 2025

Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI)

Health Care Payment Learning and Action Network (LAN) Annual Summit

Dates: 11/14/2024 – 11/14/2024

Venue, City, State or Country: Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, MD

How the Conference Advanced the Mission of the Agency: The purpose of the LAN Summit was to foster collaboration and engagement among payers/purchasers (including CMS), providers, consumers, and other health care industry stakeholders to improve care and contain costs. The Summit involved public and private stakeholders who shared information about their experiences implementing alternative payment and accountable care arrangements so that best practices could be disseminated more broadly. The LAN Summit also offered an essential venue to discuss testing alternative payment models, including incentives and metrics, to improve quality and lower costs. The LAN Summit has proven to be an effective collaboration platform since the first summit in 2015. The 2024 Summit demonstrated the ways the health care system can implement features of accountable care, ranging from initial actions by stakeholders early in the adoption process, to those who have the most advanced achievement of elements of the accountable care curve.

The LAN Summit is a strategic opportunity to advance a pillar of CMS' mission and vision of bringing together the public and private sector to foster collaboration, innovation, and advancement among our stakeholders. The conference showcased CMS and industry achievements, challenges, and best practices to a wider audience, and curtailing the LAN Summit would impact future performance due to decreased engagement with the private sector and other public sector partners, reputation as a convener of industry stakeholders, and growth of alternative payment models. The potential consequences of not funding the conference or reducing funding significantly were: loss of value and appeal, loss of credibility and reputation of the Health Care Payment LAN since this is typically an annual conference, loss of momentum and influence as CMS would no longer be hosting the stage where stakeholders convene, and loss of impact and outcomes as the various stakeholders would not be able to meet in person and truly connect on and discuss ways in which to advance alternative payment models and value based care.

CMS worked with the contractor to manage the most cost-effective options to achieve the purpose of the 2024 LAN Summit, approved by Chiquita Brooks-LaSure. Conference venues for the capacity required are limited due to more in-person events being held than in the last few years. CMS compared options for the venue, A/V, breakout rooms, and virtual presence to ensure the greatest value, including having the contractor solicit bids from 10+ venues. To further limit costs to CMS, the conference was held in Baltimore to decrease the amount of travel needed for CMS attendees.

Total Estimated Cost: \$628,521

Total Attendees: 1,378

Total Feds on Travel: 26

Total Non-Feds on Travel: 25

Center for Medicare (CM)

CMS Security Control Oversight and Update Training (CSCOUT)

Dates: 01/28/2025 – 01/30/2025

Venue, City, State or Country: Virtual

How the Conference Advanced the Mission of the Agency: CSCOUT is a CMS sponsored information security training event that was open to all CMS staff and CMS contractors with information security responsibilities. The purpose of CSCOUT was to provide information and direction on agency-wide system security implementation, privacy and oversight issues, and to address questions and concerns regarding new and existing system security and privacy requirements.

Total Estimated Cost: \$116,512

Total Attendees: 110

Total Feds on Travel: 0

Total Non-Feds on Travel: 61

Center for Clinical Standards & Quality (CCSQ)

Quality Conference

Dates: 07/01/2025 – 07/02/2025

Venue, City, State or Country: Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor, Baltimore, MD

How the Conference Advanced the Mission of the Agency: CMS' annual Quality Conference, *Making America Healthy: Health Outcomes through Prevention, Quality, and Safety*, brought together national healthcare leadership from across CMS, various agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services, quality improvement experts, and other key public and private stakeholder organizations to foster collaboration and discuss novel directions for health care quality improvement from local, state, and national perspectives. For more than 20 years this free conference has provided CMS a platform and an opportunity to align various Quality Networks with the CMS Vision, transfer knowledge on quality improvement efforts, and carry out other agency initiatives pertinent to the CMS quality portfolio. The conference provided the CMS Administrator with a broad-sweeping opportunity to communicate and carry out the CMS vision nationwide.

The Quality Conference is a sought-after opportunity to convene and engage with numerous quality healthcare leaders and stakeholders across the healthcare arena, inclusive of public, private and government entities. The conference is developed with the goal of fostering collaboration, sharing and learning from existing models of success, and providing training and resources required for the implementation of successful healthcare quality improvement efforts across the nation. The hybrid structure is the most cost-effective option to reach these goals. In-person connections between CMS and interested parties strengthens implementation and allows for collaboration in a way that virtual participation alone does not. As the annual flagship CMS event for healthcare quality improvement, the conference ability to facilitate the direct sharing of best practices, lessons learned, and innovative approaches to prevention, quality measurement, and safety improvement is unmatched and critical to achieve the Administration's priorities.

To minimize costs, CMS worked within an established 4-year hotel contract at reduced prices as opposed to contracting one year at a time. CMS utilized purchased materials from prior years (e.g., lecterns, easels) in addition to continued/expanded automation to reduce planning costs. Internal CMS resources were utilized to support large printing needs, graphic design, and multimedia support to minimize costs of contractor provided resources. To further limit costs to CMS, a hybrid conference was held in Baltimore to decrease the amount of travel needed for CMS attendees and the conference length was changed from 3 to 2 days. CMS worked with the contractor to manage the most cost-effective options to achieve the purpose of the Quality

Conference, approved by Dr. Oz and the Office of the Secretary.

Total Estimated Cost: \$3,411,903

Total Attendees: 5,715

Total Feds on Travel: 354

Total Non-Feds on Travel: 763

Center for Medicare (CM)

Hospice Wage Index Technical Expert Panel

Dates: 09/10/2025 – 09/10/2025

Venue, City, State or Country: CMS Headquarters, Woodlawn, MD

How the Conference Advanced the Mission of the Agency: The Division of Home Health & Hospice (DHHH) hosted a Hospice Wage Index Methodology Technical Expert Panel (TEP), providing critical input on the potential development of a new approach for calculating the hospice wage index. The goal of this initiative was to improve the accuracy of Medicare payments for hospice services. As such, the TEP focused on evaluating and refining a wage index methodology that uses Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data to better reflect hospices' labor costs in order to address longstanding concerns with the current hospice wage index, which relies on hospital wage data that may not align with hospice staffing patterns or labor markets.

Total Estimated Cost: \$109,687

Total Attendees: 26

Total Feds on Travel: 1

Total Non-Feds on Travel: 18