

Community Catalyst is a national, non-profit consumer advocacy organization founded in 1998 with the belief that affordable, quality health care should be accessible to everyone. We work in partnership with national, state and local organizations, policymakers and philanthropic foundations to ensure consumer interests are represented wherever important decisions about health and the health system are made: in communities, courtrooms, statehouses and on Capitol Hill.

Health Care Reform

Over the past two decades, state efforts have served as a roadmap for achieving the first step in comprehensive national health reform through the Affordable Care Act (ACA). States are responsible for implementing national policies and have a critical role in ensuring the ACA is ultimately successful. Local advocates represent consumers when programs are established and rules and guidelines are set.

Community Catalyst works with consumer advocacy organizations in nearly 40 states to improve health care quality, access and affordability, and bring the knowledge and experience gained to inform national efforts and ensure consumer priorities are heard in Washington, D.C. Community Catalyst also supports enrollment through the ACA by working with enrollment specialists across the country to share best practices, successes and lessons learned.

Our **Affordable Care Act Implementation Fund** is a collaborative funding effort with a network of foundations to make strategic investments in state-based advocacy initiatives that will maximize the impact state consumer advocates have on ACA implementation nationwide. The Fund, which has invested \$21 million in state advocacy efforts, also supports the **Close the Gap** campaign to expand health care coverage in states that have yet to accept federal dollars for Medicaid expansion under the ACA.

The State Consumer Health Advocacy Program works to support and expand the capacity of consumer advocates to participate in and influence public policy on a broad range of issues such as delivery system reform, private insurance reform and maintaining a safety net for immigrant and other uninsured populations. **Consumer Voices for Coverage**, a joint initiative of Community Catalyst and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, supports states in their national and state advocacy efforts to expand health care coverage. **Southern Health Partners** works with advocacy organizations in 12 states to apply a regional approach to Medicaid expansion and defense, health care marketplaces, substance use disorders, and other local and state health policy issues that present a challenge in the region.

Children's Health

Access to quality, affordable care helps our children develop into healthy, productive and happy adults. We build coalitions with community leaders, educators, pediatricians, hospitals and businesses to improve children's health at the state and national levels. **New England Alliance for Children's Health** works to expand coverage and improve access to quality health care for children in all six New England states. The **Community Catalyst Alliance for Children's Health** builds on this successful advocacy model by expanding Community Catalyst's children's work beyond New England and into Arizona, Ohio and Virginia.

Health System Transformation

While consumer advocates continue working to expand coverage through the ACA, they must also focus on a significant, growing challenge: the rapid transformation underway in our health care financing and delivery system, which has largely been driven by the health care industry. The **Center for Consumer Engagement in Health Innovation** works directly with advocates to increase the skills and power they have to establish a permanent and effective voice for consumers throughout all levels of the system. It collaborates with health plans, hospitals and providers to incorporate the consumer experience into the design of their systems of care. The Center builds on existing relationships with state and federal officials to make systems more responsive to consumers by expanding best practices that have shown positive impact in communities and by bringing new policies to fruition that reduce inequities and improve health.

With a particular focus on improving care for the most vulnerable Americans, the Center builds on and incorporates the work of Community Catalyst's longstanding **Voices for Better Health** project. We continue our work to shape demonstration projects for people dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid in more than a dozen states with the goal of promoting integrated care that places individuals and families at the center of care planning and delivery.

The **Value Advocacy Project**, a joint initiative of Community Catalyst and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, supports state and regional advocacy efforts to pursue policy and health system changes that increase the value of health care by improving health outcomes and lowering health care costs, especially for populations that have disproportionately poor health outcomes.

Hospital Financial Assistance and Community Benefit

An integral part of our health care safety net, many hospitals receive significant public funds or are exempted from taxes in exchange for their commitment to community benefit: financial assistance and health programs that meet identified community needs. Community Catalyst's **Hospital Accountability Project** works with advocates across the country to implement hospital practices that protect families from financial devastation due to medical debt, allow the uninsured and underinsured to receive needed health care services, and involve the community in health planning. We also work at the federal level to promote public policies that set clear standards for hospital community benefit and financial assistance.

Oral Health

With 83 million Americans lacking access to dental care, we need to find ways to improve the system. The **Dental Access Project** is a partnership between Community Catalyst and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to expand access to oral health care by working with state advocates to expand the successful deployment of dental therapists to provide care to rural and low-income populations who lack access to dental care.

Substance Use Disorders

About 23 million Americans suffer from alcohol and drug addiction, but only a fraction get the treatment they need. The overall cost in lives and in dollars is enormous. Our **Substance Use Disorders Project** works to improve care for substance use disorders and further integrate it into our existing health care delivery system. At the state level, we work with local advocates to improve coverage, access and treatment. Our federal work centers on the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, parity for substance use disorders, and protecting funding for the safety-net and addiction programs.