



CALIFORNIA
HEALTHCARE
FOUNDATION

BACKGROUND: CALIFORNIA HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

ABOUT CHCF

The California HealthCare Foundation (CHCF) works as a catalyst to fulfill the promise of better health care for all Californians. We support ideas and innovations that improve quality, increase efficiency, and lower the costs of care.

From its inception, CHCF's strategy has been one of engagement, collaboration, and partnership with key health care players in state and local government, employers, providers, consumer groups, patients, and other foundations. To help amplify its impact, the Foundation now focuses most of its grantmaking in four areas:

- Better Chronic Disease Care;
- Innovations for the Underserved;
- Market and Policy Monitor; and
- Health Reform and Public Programs Initiative.

California HealthCare Foundation (CHCF)

Founded:

1996

Staff:

50

Headquarters:

Oakland, CA

President & CEO:

Mark D. Smith, MD, MBA

VP of Programs:

Sam Karp

Net Assets:

\$700 million

www.chcf.org

HISTORY

CHCF was one of two health philanthropies created in 1996 when Blue Cross of California converted from a nonprofit health plan to the for-profit corporation WellPoint Health Networks. CHCF seeks innovative ways to leverage its resources and expertise to improve how health care is delivered and financed in California.

MEDIA CONTACT

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A TRUSTED RESOURCE FOR HEALTH INFORMATION

The California HealthCare Foundation harnesses the power of the Internet to make its research and analysis available to all Californians.

Access www.CHCF.org and the following sites for a wide array of information on key health care issues facing California.

NEWS

CaliforniaHealthline.org – A daily digest of health care news, policy, and opinion

iHealthBeat.org – A daily digest covering technology’s impact on health care

CONSUMER INFORMATION

CalHospitalCompare.org – Quality ratings for California hospitals in English and Spanish

CalQualityCare.org – Consumer information and ratings on long term care in California

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BETTER CHRONIC DISEASE CARE

GOAL

The Better Chronic Disease Care program works to improve clinical outcomes and quality of life for Californians with chronic disease.

BACKGROUND

In California, 38 percent of the state's population has at least one chronic illness, and many have several chronic conditions. These numbers are expected to rise sharply during the next decade, with an associated rise in the cost of treating these patients. Treatment of chronic illness already accounts for the majority of health care spending in the state.

OUR APPROACH

Expand the Number of Providers Who Care for Patients with Chronic Conditions Effectively

CHCF partners with medical groups, community health centers, county health departments, professional societies, and others to spread adoption of better chronic disease practices, such as using clinical data to track patient progress and drive improvements. CHCF also encourages the effective use of health information technology to improve chronic care, including disease registries, electronic health records, and data standards to enable the sharing of health information across health care providers.

Promote Appropriate End-of-Life Care

Toward the end of life, too many people receive ineffective, expensive care, while pain and suffering is poorly addressed. CHCF is improving the communication of patient information and coordination of care between hospitals, nursing homes, and the patient's home and other settings, while also working to increase the adoption of culturally sensitive palliative care.

MEDIA CONTACT

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INNOVATIONS FOR THE UNDERSERVED

GOAL

The Innovations for the Underserved program seeks to reduce barriers to efficient, affordable health care for the underserved.

BACKGROUND

One in five Californians is uninsured, including nearly a third of the state's Latino population. The cost of insurance for a family of four in California now represents 84 percent of the yearly earnings of a minimum-wage worker, a problem worsened by incentives in health care that encourage the use of higher-cost providers and services.

OUR APPROACH

Reduce Barriers to Efficient, Affordable Health Care for the Underserved

Encourage, test, and promote lower-cost models of care by using CHCF's resources to catalyze the growth of low-cost, efficient health care products and services that focus on providing accessible and high-quality health care for underserved Californians.

Invest in Efficient, Cost-Effective Technologies and Services

CHCF invests in medical and health care devices, technologies, and services through grants and program-related investments. CHCF is interested in devices or solutions that have already obtained or do not require FDA approval.

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MARKET & POLICY MONITOR

GOAL

The Market & Policy Monitor program promotes greater transparency and accountability in California's health care system.

BACKGROUND

Information is essential to create sustainable solutions for many of the complex problems facing health care and can help bring diverse groups together. Providing timely, credible, and useable information on a select range of topics is critical to improving the state's health care system.

OUR APPROACH

Policy and Market Analysis

CHCF provides reliable, independent information for policymakers and other key players in the health care market to use as they make their day-to-day decisions. Through a combination of published reports, Web sites, and legislative briefings, CHCF provides timely data and analysis about California's health care system.

Performance Reporting

CHCF promotes responsible performance reporting to encourage improvement, and act a means to track its progress. That commitment led to the development of such Web sites as www.CalHospitalCompare.org, a report card that provides information on quality of care, patient experience, and safety measures for more than 200 California hospitals.

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HEALTH REFORM AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS INITIATIVE

GOAL

The Health Reform and Public Programs Initiative seeks to support implementation of health reform and advance the effectiveness of California's public coverage programs.

BACKGROUND

The passage of the federal Affordable Care Act creates an extraordinary opportunity to provide health coverage to millions of Californians, and has the potential to begin reshaping our health care system to meet the health needs of all Californians. The success of this effort will depend on how the law is implemented by the states. To support this goal, CHCF formed the Health Reform and Public Programs Initiative, which brings together grant dollars, internal expertise, and partnerships with other philanthropies, the government, and the private sector to capture the promise of this moment.

OUR APPROACH

Informing Policy Decisions around Health Reform Implementation

A key objective of the Health Reform and Public Programs Initiative is to inform policymakers, the health care community, and the public about approaches to expanding public and private coverage. Through a combination of published reports, legislative briefings, and technical assistance to state health care decisionmakers, CHCF will provide timely data and analysis to help inform policymakers of actions needed to realize health reform implementation in California.

Informing the Evolution of Medi-Cal

The Initiative will support the evolution of Medi-Cal, other public programs, and state operations to respond to the new challenges health reform will bring. This includes informing policy decisions with respect to a modernized Medi-Cal eligibility determination and enrollment process to prepare for the increased numbers of applicants and the changing profile of Medi-Cal enrollees that health care reform will create. The Initiative will also focus on reforms to promote care that is better organized, higher quality, and more affordable for high-need, high-cost Medi-Cal beneficiaries beyond the renewal of the state's Medicaid waiver.

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