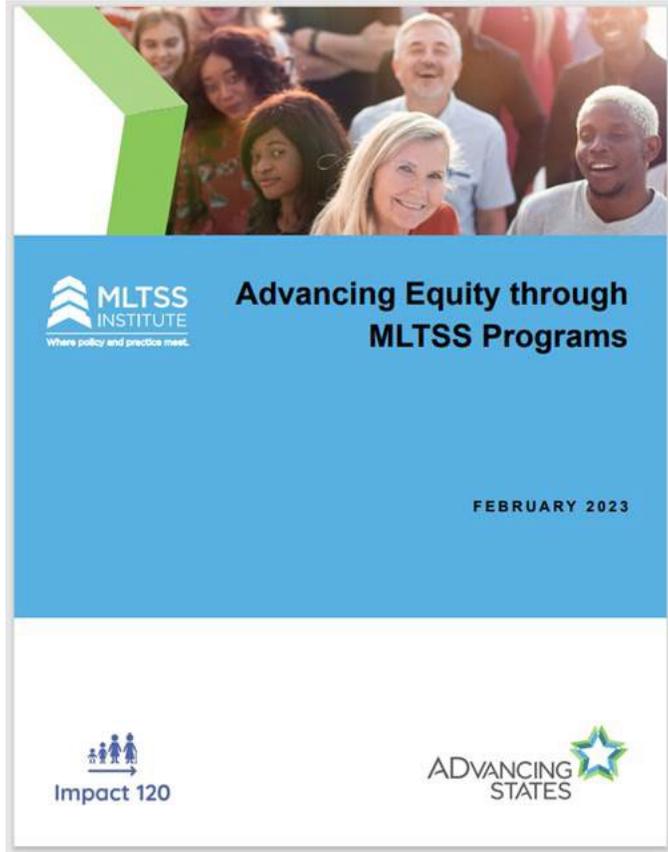


Advancing Equity through MLTSS Programs



Context for this Issue Brief



- Published by the ADvancing States' MLTSS Institute
- Two primary focus areas:
 - Consumers with LTSS needs and the intersectional impact of disability and age, when combined with race, ethnicity, language, sexual orientation, gender identity, and geography
 - How managed care can be a partner to states in achieving equity-related goals
- Methods:
 - Literature review
 - Interviews with state and MLTSS plan leaders

To access the issue brief: <http://www.advancingstates.org/sites/nasuad/files/Advancing%20Equity%20MLTSS%20Feb.%202023.pdf>

What does currently available data tell us?

- Limited information is available about this specific population segment
- Some adjacent data is available:

Access to LTSS

- 37 states had waiting lists for waiver services in 2021
- People with I/DD wait significantly longer for services, on average
- Rural access can be limited

Disparities for persons with disabilities

- 36% of individuals with disabilities delayed or missed needed health care in last year
- Only 40% of physicians were very confident they could provide the same quality of care to patients with disabilities

Individuals dually eligible for Medicare & Medicaid

- 48% are from a racial or ethnic minority group
- 9 times more likely to have limited English fluency than Medicare-only beneficiaries

See issue brief for cited sources: <http://www.advancingstates.org/sites/nasud/files/Advancing%20Equity%20MLTSS%20Feb.%202023.pdf>

Themes from our research and interviews

1

It's hard to address equity if we cannot measure it

2

Equitable MLTSS programs require a diverse network of culturally competent providers and community partners

3

States can use a variety of existing tools to align MLTSS plan efforts with equity-related goals

4

To understand inequities, MLTSS plans must authentically engage members through multiple modalities

5

Person-centered planning can advance equity by addressing barriers at the individual consumer level

4

To understand inequities, MLTSS plans must authentically engage members through multiple modalities



What we heard

Virtually all MLTSS and FAI programs require member engagement and education (e.g., advisory councils)

To exceed requirements and more deeply engage with consumers, success factors include:

1. Soliciting feedback from a representative, diverse group of members
2. Enabling consumers to fully participate
3. Offering multiple channels for engagement
4. Becoming a consumer-oriented organization



Recommendations for States

- Keep investing in consumer and provider engagement
- Include consumers and providers in the development of equity frameworks and priorities
- Practice self-awareness as an organization – are there unintended barriers in your state's processes?
- Embed diversity, equity, and inclusion in your organization's culture and processes



Advancing Equity for Individuals with LTSS Need

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Advancing Health Equity for Individuals with LTSS Need

- UHC has over 34 years of experience with LTSS and are currently managing LTSS programs in 11 states. In addition, we serve over 1.9 million dually eligible members.
- We're committed to making the health care system work better for everyone. One important way we do this is by working to address disparities that prevent people from living their healthiest lives.
- We partner with local and national organizations to gather and evaluate data, design innovative programs, and invest in communities across the country with the goal of closing gaps and improving health equity.

“The sheer volume of the program [Medicaid] suggests that there is no meaningful pathway to national equity that does not involve the Medicaid program.”

- Chima Ndumele during the panel *"Fireside Chat: Exploring the Opportunities & Challenges for Medicaid to Improve Health Equity"* in December 2021



Health Equity Initiatives

National Initiatives

- National Advisory Boards
 - FQHC Advisory Board
 - Health Equity National Advisory Board
 - National Advisory Board

State Initiatives

- Ohio partnership to advance self-direction
- [Texas: Multi Assistance Center at Morgan's Wonderland](#)



2022 Report on Health Equity in Medicaid

- The 2022 Report on Health Equity in Medicaid details how the topic of health equity is permeating national and state Medicaid-related conversations.
- **Part 4: Health Equity by Medicaid Population**
 - Aged, Blind, Disabled Eligibility Pathway
 - Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD)
 - Individuals with LTSS need
 - Individuals that are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid
- In general, there is a lack of consistent and reliable data for these historically underserved populations.
- We partnered with ATI Advisory to advance our search for beneficiary characteristics, spending and utilization, and implications for MCOs.



Community Living Equity Center

Aim 1: Generate detailed new knowledge about community living and participation disparities.

- R1 Racial and Ethnic Disparities in HCBS Access and Utilization
- R2 Barriers and Facilitators in Access to HCBS for People of Color

Aim 2: Develop new, or locate available systems-change initiatives or other promising practices for reducing community living and participation disparities.

- R3 Self-Direction and Community Living Outcomes for People of Color
- R4 Promising Practices in Peer Support Models to Advance Equity and Community Living Outcomes for People of Color
- R5 Policy Analysis and Development to Advance Community Living Equity

Aim 3: Serve as a national resource for the conduct of disability and rehabilitation research in the community living and participation domain that is inclusive of people with disabilities from traditionally underserved communities.

- Training
- Dissemination
- Technical Assistance (TA)

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Thank you!