

ADDICTION TREATMENT

The COVID-19 pandemic and its economic fallout have had serious negative impacts on mental health.

According to the National Institutes of Health, 1 in 5 people with an addiction saw an increase in their substance use or that of a family member during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Medicaid provides access to treatment for many of the 20 million Americans with an addiction. In 2019, almost 12 percent of Medicaid beneficiaries over age 18 had an addiction.



CHILDREN AND TRAUMA

A 2003 study found children who experience five or more traumatic experiences are 7-10 times more likely to use illicit drugs or have an addiction.

OPTIONS FOR STATE ACTION



PREVENT ADDICTION BY ADDRESSING ROOT CAUSES

The Reality

- The stress and trauma of the last year, coupled with other difficult life experiences, may put children at higher risk of addiction as teens and adults.
- Supporting families of young children can reduce this risk and support lifelong health and wellbeing.

Innovative Approaches

- Leverage evidence-based early child development and family support.
- Incentivize providers to deliver trauma-informed care.



INCREASE ACCESS TO COMMUNITY-BASED CARE

The Reality

- Medicaid programs can improve access to treatment for people struggling with any addiction, including opioid addiction.
- Primary care providers are an important place for Medicaid programs to build capacity and get more members connected to treatment.

Innovative Approaches

- Expand medication-assisted treatment.
- Leverage telehealth to increase access to substance use disorder treatment.
- Create e-consult support for primary care providers.

OPTIONS FOR STATE ACTION [CONTINUED]



INCREASE ACCESS TO SPECIALIZED INPATIENT SERVICES

The Reality

- Federal law prohibits Medicaid from paying for specialized inpatient services to treat addiction.
- This has made it difficult for Medicaid members to access addiction treatment in an inpatient setting.

Innovative Approach

- Leverage federal authorities (1115 waivers, managed care authority, or a state-plan amendment) to provide specialized inpatient care for those with an addiction.



PROVIDE RECOVERY SUPPORTS

The Reality

- People need more than just clinical care to recover from an addiction.
- Non-clinical supports are equally important so people can stay in recovery and fully participate in their community.

Innovative Approach

- Cover peers and family peer specialists for all members with an addiction.
- Provide other supports, or incent plans to provide supports, to help people stay in recovery.

ABOUT MEDICAID FORWARD

More than 77 million Americans – roughly one in every five – use Medicaid or the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to get the health care they need. With this broad reach, the programs will inherently be central to our recovery as a nation. Through Medicaid Forward, NAMD and its partners have identified concrete, actionable ways that state Medicaid administrators can and are creating a healthier, stronger American future.

Visit [MedicaidDirectors.org](https://www.MedicaidDirectors.org) to access the series of papers, executive summaries, and related social media content.