



Our Vision for a High-Performing Medicaid Program

As Medicaid Directors, we are unified in our vision of what a high-performing Medicaid program can and should be as articulated by these seven policy principles. As 56 unique states and territories, we vary in terms of approach and achievement; however, we are all striving toward these priorities.

- 1. Medicaid provides access to high-quality health care and support services for beneficiaries in a fiscally responsible manner.** Medicaid Directors and programs across the country are leading the effort to move the health care system towards a more integrated, person-centered care model, and aligning financial incentives with value and quality.
- 2. Medicaid provides health and long-term care coverage to millions of Americans, including eligible low-income adults, children, pregnant women, elderly adults and people with disabilities.** Access to Medicaid services improves the lives of beneficiaries and allows them to fully contribute to their families, communities, and the nation. Medicaid has and will continue to play a critical role in supporting the evolving needs of the nation, including addressing our aging population.
- 3. Medicaid programs are designed to meet the unique needs of states' and territories' populations.** Medicaid programs serve as laboratories of innovation in health care with program design and operations that meet each state's or territory's program goals, delivery system characteristics, and allow for sufficient flexibility to customize solutions reflecting local markets, circumstances, and foundational cost drivers.
- 4. Medicaid programs are responsible for the largest health care insurance program in the state.** The sophistication and complexity of the Medicaid program demands that the Medicaid Directors and senior state administrative staff have well-trained teams, adequate administrative support, sufficient resources, and access to the full range of tools necessary to achieve success.
- 5. Medicaid is one part of a larger overall health care system.** Efforts to improve the health of the nation and overall health care system performance recognize the need for alignment across all sectors of the health care system to ensure the continued success of Medicaid's reform efforts. Medicaid also plays a critical role in addressing emerging public health crises, such as the opioid epidemic.
- 6. Medicaid is transparent, accountable and committed to combatting fraud, waste and abuse.** States and territories are committed to ensuring good

stewardship of taxpayer dollars and ensuring that resources are not diverted from being spent on the health and welfare of beneficiaries.

7. **The states and territories value the partnership relationship with the federal government that comprises Medicaid.** A strong and balanced relationship is key to the continued success of Medicaid, and to the states' and territories' ability innovate and to meet the unique needs of their respective stakeholders.