

National Academy for State Health Policy

The National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) is an independent academy of state health policymakers working together to identify emerging issues, develop policy solutions, and improve state health policy and practice. NASHP provides a forum for constructive, nonpartisan work across branches and agencies of state government on critical health issues facing states. NASHP's funders include both public and private organizations that contract for our services.

To accomplish our mission we:

- Convene state leaders to solve problems and share solutions.
- Conduct policy analyses and research.
- Disseminate information on state policies and programs.
- Provide technical assistance to states.

NASHP provides a unique medium for productive interchange across all lines of authority, including executive offices and the legislative branch.

Areas of Focus

NASHP's areas of expertise include:

- Identifying and describing emerging issues and promising practices.
- Medicaid, health, and juvenile justice issues.
- Distilling the literature in language useful for both practitioners and the health policy community.
- Developing leadership capacity among state officials by enabling a rich information exchange within and across states.
- Developing consensus reports through discussions among experts in a field, including people with disparate political views.
- Planning and executing large and small conferences and meetings with substantial user input in defining the agenda.

- An annual meeting that attracts approximately 500 senior state health officials, legislators and legislative staff, federal health officials, and researchers.
- Active participation by a large number of state officials who volunteer their time as advisors for conferences, committees and advisory groups.

Partners | Clients

NASHP, as an academy of state officials, is able to work closely with Medicaid Directors and agency staff, as well as staff from other agencies, legislators and legislative staff, in neutral forums outside their states and away from heated political exchanges. This allows them to focus on the substantive issues, learn and bring back ideas and information.

Strategies | Services

In order to better address the health needs of youth in the juvenile justice system, NASHP provides Models for Change grantees and partners with technical assistance designed to help them understand the intricacies of Medicaid policy, draw down Medicaid dollars to fund services in appropriate settings, and ensure that eligible youth are enrolled in Medicaid in the community.

NASHP provides its assistance in the form of papers on selected Medicaid- and health-related issues, including eligibility and enrollment of court-involved youth; webcasts designed to educate policymakers about funding mental health and health services for such youth; and a report on creative uses of Medicaid in the juvenile justice system that will be based on a survey and phone interviews with programs around the country.

In helping the four Models for Change states, NASHP works to accelerate a broader national movement to improve health services for youth in juvenile justice, develop and finance alternatives to incarceration, enlist Medicaid agencies as partners in reform, and improve access to Medicaid among youth transitioning to the community.