The Payment Reform for Population Health initiative focuses on developing a better understanding of the landscape of current efforts and successes related to payment reform activities that support community-wide (i.e., geopolitically-based) population health improvement. Through this project, we will seek to understand the challenges and barriers of designing alternative payment models that are more supportive of population health, pursue activities to help overcome those barriers, and identify the conditions and facilitators that can underpin those community-focused payment models. Employing an emergent strategy, AcademyHealth will continuously reflect back on each step of the project, which will allow us to build on and redirect, as necessary, our efforts and lessons learned over the course of the project. This project will bring together experience and knowledge from across AcademyHealth’s range of expertise in delivery and payment system reform, health services and policy research, public and population health, health information technology and exchange, and quality improvement.

The project’s vision is further informed by a Guiding Committee comprised of key subject matter experts and stakeholders who are invested and participating in some aspect of payment reform efforts to improve population health. This Committee is actively involved not only as collaborators but as co-creators of the project, helping to guide the discussion and project direction based on the discovery and synthesis of best practices and identified challenges that may require the initiative to be “course corrected” based on emerging information. As part of the emergent strategy, we are undertaking the following activities:

I. Collaborative Stakeholder Engagement: We are connecting with stakeholders that are leading initiatives that recognize social determinants as a factor in the health of individuals to learn from their efforts, support the dissemination of their knowledge and evidence, and enhance their activities.

II. Understanding Persistent Challenges: We are engaging in a series of activities, such as mapping and rapid barrier analyses, to better understand the challenges encountered when redesigning payment systems and to assess the various policies and strategies that communities are pursuing to improve population health.

III. Catalyzing Action: We are also conducting activities that support further research of the barriers, convening stakeholders to discuss potential solutions, or providing targeted technical assistance to address identified needs.

To learn more or share any information that may contribute to this project, please visit www.academyhealth.org/p4ph.

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AcademyHealth is a leading national organization serving the fields of health services and policy research and the professionals who produce and use this important work. Together with its members, AcademyHealth offers programs and services that support the development and use of rigorous, relevant, and timely evidence to increase the quality, accessibility, and value of health care, to reduce disparities, and to improve health.