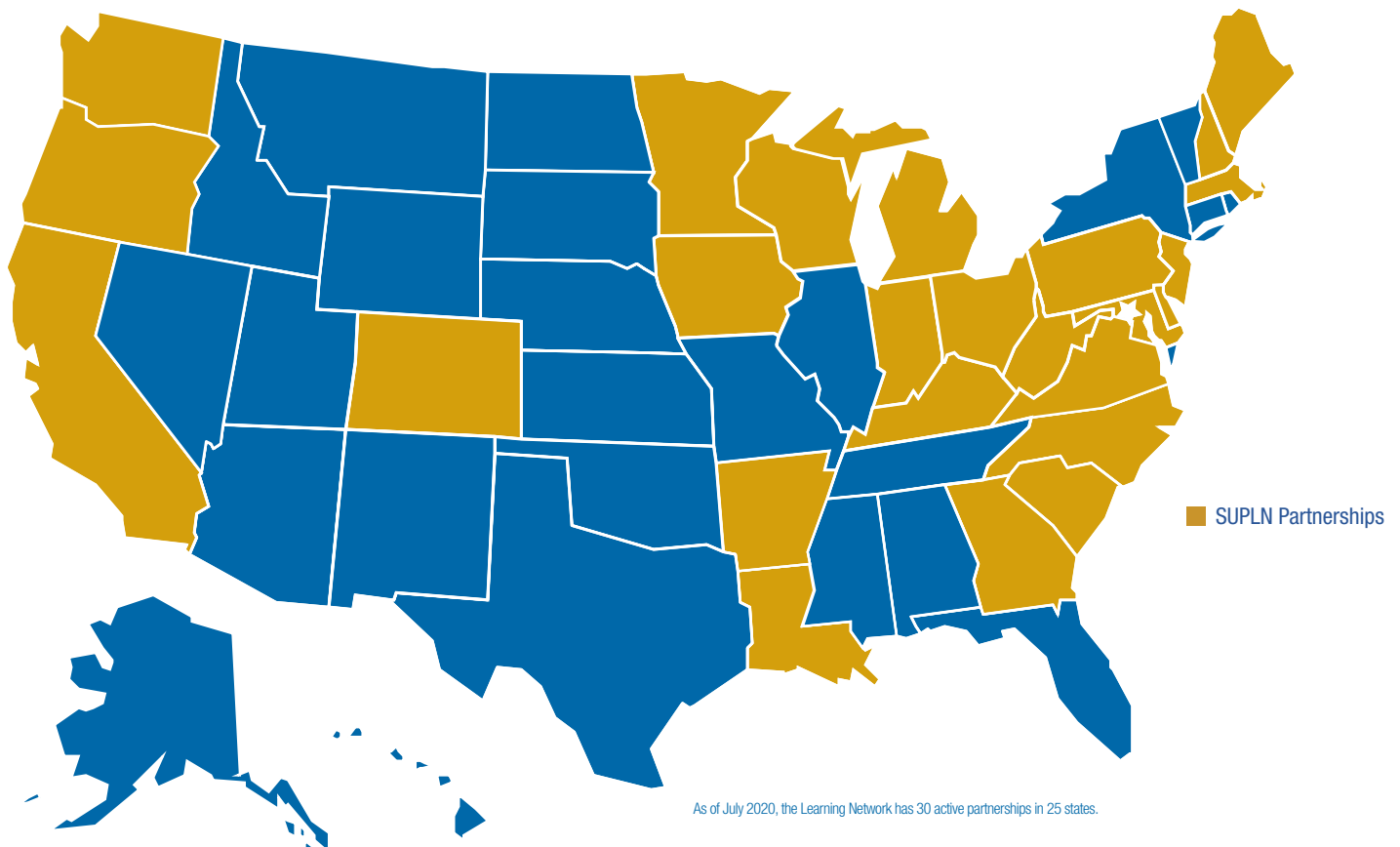


# State-University Partnership Learning Network

As the health care environment becomes increasingly complex, many Medicaid programs are taking a leading role in improving coverage and access as well as transforming the delivery and payment system. With support from its Board of Directors, AcademyHealth launched the State-University Partnership Learning Network (SUPLN) in 2014 for state-based partnerships between Medicaid policymakers and their resident state or state-related university research teams.

The Learning Network partnerships are ongoing collaborations between a state legislative or executive agency and a university research center. Partnerships are member-driven and focus on state-funded health programs working to provide the analysis and research, as well as program support, to create essential state-specific health information and conduct policy-related projects and programs. Partnerships include a state or state-related university research center and a state Medicaid agency and/or any state governmental entity that works on the Triple Aim with Medicaid as a principle partner.



The State-University Partnership Learning Network (SUPLN) collaboratively works to support evidence-based state health policy and practice with a focus on transforming Medicaid-based healthcare, including improving the patient experience with care, improving the health of populations, and reducing the per capita cost of healthcare.

## How the Learning Network Achieves Its Goals

To achieve the partners' aims of improved care, health, and costs in the Medicaid program, the Learning Network:

- Builds a learning community of partnerships to share and spread best practices and relevant health projects.
- Facilitates a dialogue between state government and state university research centers to improve partnership efficiency/effectiveness.
- Supports state government's capacity to conduct high-quality policy and data analysis.
- Informs state university center's research with the practical expertise of state officials and promoting state considerations in the research questions and methods.
- Provides a mechanism for comparative studies across states (addressing questions that would benefit from a multi-state perspective).
- Explores and potentially supports the development of new partnerships.

## Learning Network Highlights

### Cross-State Collaboration and Research Opportunities

In 2016, AcademyHealth received the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Award to support the SUPLN's activities. With this award, the Learning Network has continued to support existing partnerships between researchers and policymakers, as well as facilitate new cross-state collaborative research opportunities initiated by members, such as developing a multi-state Distributed Research Network (DRN). The SUPLN currently facilitates a DRN Feasibility Workgroup comprised of Learning Network members to assist in activities that assess the strengths and challenges of each partnership, with specific attention given to measuring each partnership's capacity to participate in cross-state analyses.

### Peer-to-Peer Meeting

The Learning Network sponsors an annual convening of state officials and researchers in Washington, DC each November. Featuring presentations from members, as well as leadership from invited federal agencies, the annual meeting provides a chance for partnerships to share their state's work, engage in interactive peer-to-peer dialogues, and help the Learning Network prioritize issues of interest to members. Substantive topics have included:

- Data and Technology Issues in the States
- Post-Election Impact on Health Care Policy
- Program Support to Improve Quality and Lower Costs
- Evaluation Projects
- Medicaid Transformation: Improving Care Delivery and Containing Costs
- State Efforts to Address the Opioid Crisis
- Post-Election Implications for Medicaid
- Social Determinants of Health
- Evaluating Health Workforce Needs
- Payment and Delivery System Reform in Medicaid
- All Payer Claims Databases (APCDs)

### Learning Opportunities: Web Conferences and Collaboration Calls

The Learning Network hosts regular peer-to-peer learning opportunities including web conferences and Collaboration Calls to help members learn about both process-related issues and substantive topics important to the partnerships. Examples include:

**Web Conference: What Can We Expect? Potential Implications for State Medicaid Programs under the New Administration**  
Experts examined potential changes in health care under the new Republican Administration and the type of analyses that might be informative to state policymakers amid a dearth of details from the federal government

**Collaboration Call: Workforce and Training Issues**

This members-only collaboration call invited participants to share issues that their partnership experiences with workforce development and training, as well as a brainstorm to explore how the SUPLN can work to address and support solutions to these issues.