

Priorities for Advancing Evidence-Based Policy and Practice AcademyHealth's Policy Platform for the 117th Congress (2021-2022)



In support of the AcademyHealth strategic plan and aligned with the cross-cutting priorities approved by the Board of Directors in its summer 2020 meeting, AcademyHealth's advocacy efforts will focus on promoting research and science innovation, health systems improvement, resilience, capacity, and proactively reducing health disparities, including for racial and socio-economic factors.

Tier 1: Advocacy Priorities AcademyHealth Leads

Research and Science Innovation

- Consistent, sufficient, and reliable federal funding for health services research and the agencies which do this work.
- Continued federal support for robust and independent evaluations of state and federal policy.
- Increasing the relevance and timeliness of HSR research by supporting the development and use of rapid, rigorous, and relevant research methods.
- Modernizing public health data and interoperability and ensuring appropriate, relevant, high-quality data is collected, managed, and made available for research and program analysis, with reasonable consumer protections.
- Ensuring a sufficient, diverse, and multi-disciplinary HSR workforce has the resources, training, and autonomy to do this important work.
- Support research funding to support care delivery improvement and the development of learning health systems.

Health System Improvement, Resilience, and Capacity

- Research funding and regulatory support for robust evaluation of existing policy and regulatory procedures and processes in health care delivery, as well as for any changes.
- The production, dissemination, and use of evidence-based policymaking processes and tools.
- Ensuring the immediate needs of the COVID-19 pandemic are met, and that contemporary and forward-looking health system research is a cornerstone of future pandemic responses.

Racial, Ethnic & Socio-Economic Health Equity

- HSR funding to document and understand health equity, and develop and evaluate policy interventions to improve healthcare quality and access across underserved populations.
- HSR funding data and methods to address the systemic racial, ethnic, and socio-economic disparities that create and propagate health and health care inequities.
- Diversity within our field and the removal of racial, ethnic, and socio-economic barriers to a career in HSR.
- Identifying and mitigating racial, ethnic, and socio-economic biases within health services data, modeling, and public policy.

Tier 2: Advocacy Efforts AcademyHealth Will Join with Others to Support

Research and Science Innovation

- Policies to improve public access to research results.
- Patient engagement in research.
- Efforts to encourage diverse funding streams and innovative approaches and high-risk, high-reward studies.
- Increase the diversity of funding streams for new research in order to spur innovation.

Health System Improvement, Resilience, and Capacity

- Ensuring that Americans have access to affordable, high quality health care.

Racial, Ethnic & Socio-Economic Health Equity

- Direct research grants and build institutional capacity to researchers affiliated with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Minority Serving Institutions (MSI), and Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs).

About this Policy Platform

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. As a non-partisan organization and a purveyor of evidence, our advocacy priorities are guided by building a robust environment to produce health services research and enhance the dissemination and use of it. This policy platform was unanimously endorsed by AcademyHealth's Committee on Advocacy and Public Policy, the Executive Committee, and the Board of Directors.

On issues for which AcademyHealth takes the lead (Tier 1), we will seek to produce advocacy and educational outputs, such as letters to Congress, comments to agencies, meeting staffers, building relationships, or informational webinars to policymakers. For Tier 2 issues, we will sign on to and promote the outputs of our partner and peer organizations but will generally not generate new materials or campaigns. Neither the categories nor the proposals within them are in order of importance. Any duplication of issue should be seen as illustrating interconnectedness of policy priorities across pillars.

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