

Priorities for Advancing Evidence-Based Policy and Practice AcademyHealth's Policy Platform for the 119th Congress (2025-2026)



AcademyHealth

AcademyHealth is the professional home of health services research and serves as the voice and vehicle for our field to inform policymakers. At its most basic, health services research is the science that studies what works, for whom, at what cost, and under what circumstances. Policy choices impact the delivery of health care and its outcomes. Through the implementation of this policy platform, AcademyHealth and our members will work with policymakers to support the production and use of evidence to facilitate more informed decision-making.

Priority Area 1: Promoting Robust Research Funding and Evidence Implementation

AcademyHealth leads advocacy for:

1. Consistent and sufficient federal investment in health services research (HSR) and the agencies conducting, supporting, and utilizing this work, including:
 - Support for evaluations of healthcare delivery, coverage, and payment policies at both state and federal levels to measure their impact and improve future implementation for better value and better outcomes for all.
 - Focused funding for the study of delivery system improvement and patient-centered outcomes.
2. Developing and applying rigorous, relevant research methods to meet the demands for rapid evidence generation for better health, and funding to support this rigor.

AcademyHealth will join with others to support:

- Encouraging high-risk, high-reward studies by fostering diverse funding streams and innovative approaches.

Priority Area 2: Advancing Data and Innovation to Improve Health Outcomes

AcademyHealth leads advocacy for:

1. Increasing public access to evidence and data from both publicly funded programs and publicly funded research by promoting transparency, accessibility, and usability.
2. Modernizing public (i.e. Federal) health data systems to improve interoperability, ensure quality data access, promote data transparency, and protect patient privacy.
3. The use of evidence to promote equitable, rigorous, and trustworthy design and implementation of AI in healthcare for research, clinical care, and patient outcomes.
4. Ensuring data are representative and methods are free from bias to avoid propagating existing systemic inequities and identifying disparities in health.
5. Strengthening the HSR workforce with resources, training, professional development, autonomy, and opportunity for all.

AcademyHealth will join with others to support:

- Building institutional research capacity at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), and rural institutions.

Priority Area 3: Strengthening Evidence-Based Policy Decision-Making

AcademyHealth leads advocacy for:

1. The production, dissemination, and use of evidence-based policymaking tools to guide health system improvements.
2. The use of evidence to robustly evaluate existing and proposed health care policies to ensure they align with research evidence and address systemic gaps in care and evidence.
3. Engaging patients in research to align studies with community priorities, perspectives and values.

AcademyHealth will join with others to support:

- Collaborative efforts to ensure access to affordable, high-quality healthcare informed by robust, timely, and cutting-edge evidence.
- Embedding research in health system responses to emerging crises like pandemics, prioritizing resilience and adaptability.

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 vital work. As a non-partisan organization and a purveyor of evidence, our advocacy priorities are guided by building a robust environment to conduct 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, 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 other 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 ranked in order of importance. Any duplication of issues should illustrate the interconnectedness of policy priorities across pillars.

Learn more at www.academyhealth.org