

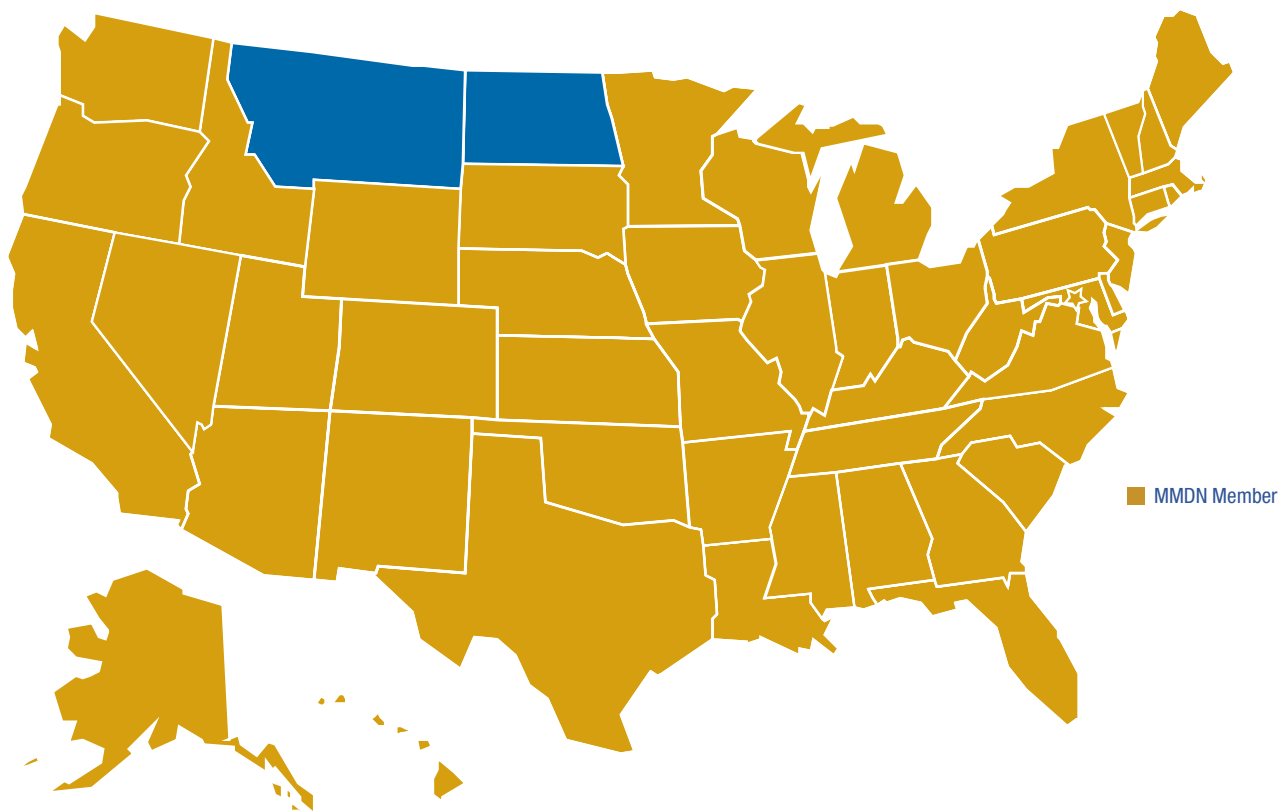
# Medicaid Medical Directors Network

The National Medicaid Medical Directors Network (MMDN) works to advance the health of Medicaid beneficiaries across the country by providing a nexus for senior clinical leaders in Medicaid across the 50 US states and 6 territories to discuss their most pressing needs and share best practices. The MMDN conducts multistate projects on pressing topics, builds on research and quality improvement efforts, hosts yearly convenings, and leverages collective experience to support and advance both state and national work.

Medicaid Medical Directors (MMDs) serve as senior clinical leaders for Medicaid programs across the US. MMDs come from a variety of clinical backgrounds across primary care and sub-specialties but they commonly bring the perspective of the patient experience to their work. MMDs apply their clinical knowledge and experience to Medicaid policy development, innovation, implementation, and analysis. They help to articulate the clinical vision of Medicaid programs and provide clinical subject matter expertise for contract management, utilization review, quality improvement, formulary development, among other programs. They approach their role from not only a clinical lens, but one of the scientific method, evidence, and peer-review.

As the professional home of the MMDN, AcademyHealth maintains a strategic partnership and the infrastructure for the MMDN to collaborate and thrive. With support from various funders and partners including the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the MMDN synthesizes and disseminates policy relevant findings to policymakers who tend to need information quickly. The MMDN has provided policy analysis and collaboration to parties including The White House, Congressional staff, CMS, NIH, and various state agencies. The collective projects and insights of MMDN efforts have been published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, New England Journal of Medicine Catalyst, and other scholarly publications.

The MMDN exists to both enrich and broaden the work of MMDs across the country, and also to share their common experience to other stakeholders in the healthcare space.



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## How the Network Achieves Its Goals

The MMDN focuses on the development and use of evidence-based medicine, measurement and improvement of health care quality, and the redesign of health care delivery systems. AcademyHealth assists with these efforts by:

- Creating and sustaining a vibrant learning community for MMDs and other senior clinical leaders to promote and share best practices for the medical direction of State Medicaid programs through regular conference calls, in-person meetings, and online engagement;
- Facilitating the exchange of the Network's expertise and experience to federal agencies and national organizations involved in creating policy or implementing programs; and
- Assisting in the implementation of nationally significant multistate measurement and quality improvement projects, such as cross-state analysis of high-cost, high-need beneficiaries, a MMDN-wide survey of Medicaid's role in measuring and addressing social determinants of health, and, in collaboration with the the State-University Partnership Learning Network (SUPLN), a multistate opioid use disorder treatment evaluation project, and development of the Medicaid Outcomes Distributed Research Network (MODRN).

## Network Highlights

### Cross-State Collaboration and Research Opportunities

- **Project ACCELERATE (Advancing Care Coordination through Evidence; Leveraging Existing Relationships Around Transforming Practice):**  
With a Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute Eugene Washington Engagement Award, the Evidence-Informed State Health Policy Institute will bring together stakeholders to distill the latest PCORI-supported findings and identify strategies for dissemination to improve care coordination for children with special health care needs.
- **Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) Treatment and Outcome Measures Assessment:**  
In collaboration with the SUPLN, the MMDN conducted a comprehensive multi-state assessment of OUD treatment quality and outcomes across a subset of state Medicaid programs to inform policy decisions on coverage and payment for evidence-based OUD treatments in Medicaid. This initial project resulted in the creation of the Medicaid Outcomes Distributed Research Network (MODRN), which can be harnessed for future Medicaid policy and program analyses.
- **Immunization Barriers in the United States: Targeting Medicaid Partnerships through Community of Practice:**  
Funded through a CDC cooperative agreement, AcademyHealth collaborates with the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) and Immunize Colorado, to enhance collaborative immunization efforts across Medicaid, public health agencies and Immunization Information Systems (IIS) divisions to improve immunization rates for children and pregnant women with Medicaid coverage. Through the formation of a Community of Practice (CoP), this project provides technical assistance to Medicaid, public health, and Immunization Information System (IIS) representation, and targets specific immunization goals to achieve over the project's three-year span.

### Learning Opportunities: Open Mic Calls & Peer-to-Peer Meetings

The MMDN hosts regular peer-to-peer learning opportunities through Open Mic calls to help members learn about both process-related issues and substantive topics respective MMDs are working on in their state. A few high-level examples of topics the MMDs collaborate on include behavioral health, OUD treatment, rural health, social determinants of health and telehealth.

The Network meets in Washington, D.C. annually, every May and November. Featuring presentations from members, as well as leadership from invited federal agencies, the annual meetings provide a chance for MMDs to share their state's work, engage in interactive peer-to-peer dialogues, and help the Network prioritize issues of interest to members. Substantive meeting topics have included:

- Leveraging Data Sharing in the States
- Quality Metric Reporting and Performance
- Medicaid Transformation: Improving Care Delivery and Containing Costs
- State Efforts to Address the Opioid Crisis
- Social Determinants of Health
- COVID-19 Response
- Payment and Delivery System Reform in Medicaid
- Section 1115 Waiver Demonstrations

To learn more about this network please visit: [academyhealth.org/MMDN](https://academyhealth.org/MMDN)