

Research in Transforming Health and Healthcare Systems: 2022 Grantee Overview

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic created both tremendous opportunities and challenges for the Medicaid program at a time when its role could not be more important. In 2022, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation awarded five grants to support analyses that investigate the effects of the Medicaid policy changes and those enacted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic on people of color, people with disabilities, the LGBTQ community, and other historically marginalized communities. The studies examine the impact of recent Medicaid policy changes on enrollees, states, and others to inform and advance equitable policies and racial equity in Medicaid.

A brief summary of each project follows. Full details about the grants are available by clicking on the grant titles below.

Study Spotlights

Expanding health coverage for Farmworkers in California

The Regents of the University of California

This project will increase health equity by developing models for farmworker Medi-Cal eligibility for COVID-19 related services that could inform California and other states considering similar policies.

COFA Medicaid Reinstatement Research Project (CM2RP)

Pacific Islander Center of Primary Care Excellence

This project will assess how the restoration of Medicaid coverage to Freely Associated State Citizens (FASCs) in 2020 affected FASCs, community health centers that serve this population, and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander community organizations

Extending Postpartum Coverage to Medicaid Enrollees: Impact on Those Eligible and Those Left Behind

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

This project will inform federal and state policymakers of the effects of Medicaid postpartum coverage extension resulting from the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.

Eliminating Structural Racism in Medicaid HCBS: Experiences of People of Color in Nursing Home Transitions

Brandeis University

This project will explore disparities in access to home and community-based services for people of color with disabilities.

The Racial Equity Implications of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Medicaid Churn and its Associated Effects in Illinois: a Participatory Action Research Study

Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights

This project will inform Medicaid policies in Illinois, as well as to inform national discussions on Medicaid reform and racial and health justice.