

# Research in Transforming Health and Healthcare Systems: 2023 Grantee Overview

## Background

High out-of-pocket health care costs are a persistent and well-documented challenge affecting the health and well-being of people across the United States. In 2023, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation awarded four community-engaged research grants to support analyses about the design, implementation, and impact of local, state, or national policies on the affordability of high-quality, equitable care. The studies examine policies to improve the affordability of care and address structural racism and discrimination.

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

## Study Spotlights

### **Fertility Preservation Health Insurance Benefit Mandates: Impact of Policy Implementation on Affordability of Care by Hispanic/Latino Cancer Patients**

*The Regents of the University of California, U.C. San Diego*

This project will assess how state-level health insurance benefit mandates impact affordability and access to services for fertility preservation among pediatric, adolescent, and young adult Hispanic/Latino cancer patients in California.

### **Evaluation of Medicaid Coverage for Doula Services Through a Racial Equity Lens**

*MedStar Health Research Institute, Inc.*

This project will understand the impact of the Maryland Medicaid Doula Program on affordability of doula care and perinatal experiences and outcomes for Black birthing parents and infants.

### **Exploring How to Provide Affordable, Accessible, and Equitable High-Quality Indian Health Service-Funded Care for American Indians and Alaska Natives**

*National Indian Health Board*

This project will provide specific, community-driven, measurable, and Tribally rooted recommendations needed for meaningful innovation in the Indian Health Service that will result in more affordable and accessible care to Tribal nations and improve health equity.

### **Quantifying the Economic, Social, and Health Burdens of Interstate Travel for Reproductive Health Care in an Increasingly Restrictive Policy Environment**

*Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts, Inc.*

This project will examine access to and affordability of abortion care for individuals, especially young people with intersecting marginalized identities, who travel to Massachusetts to obtain care in the wake of the 2022 Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization* and subsequent state actions taken to curtail access to abortion.