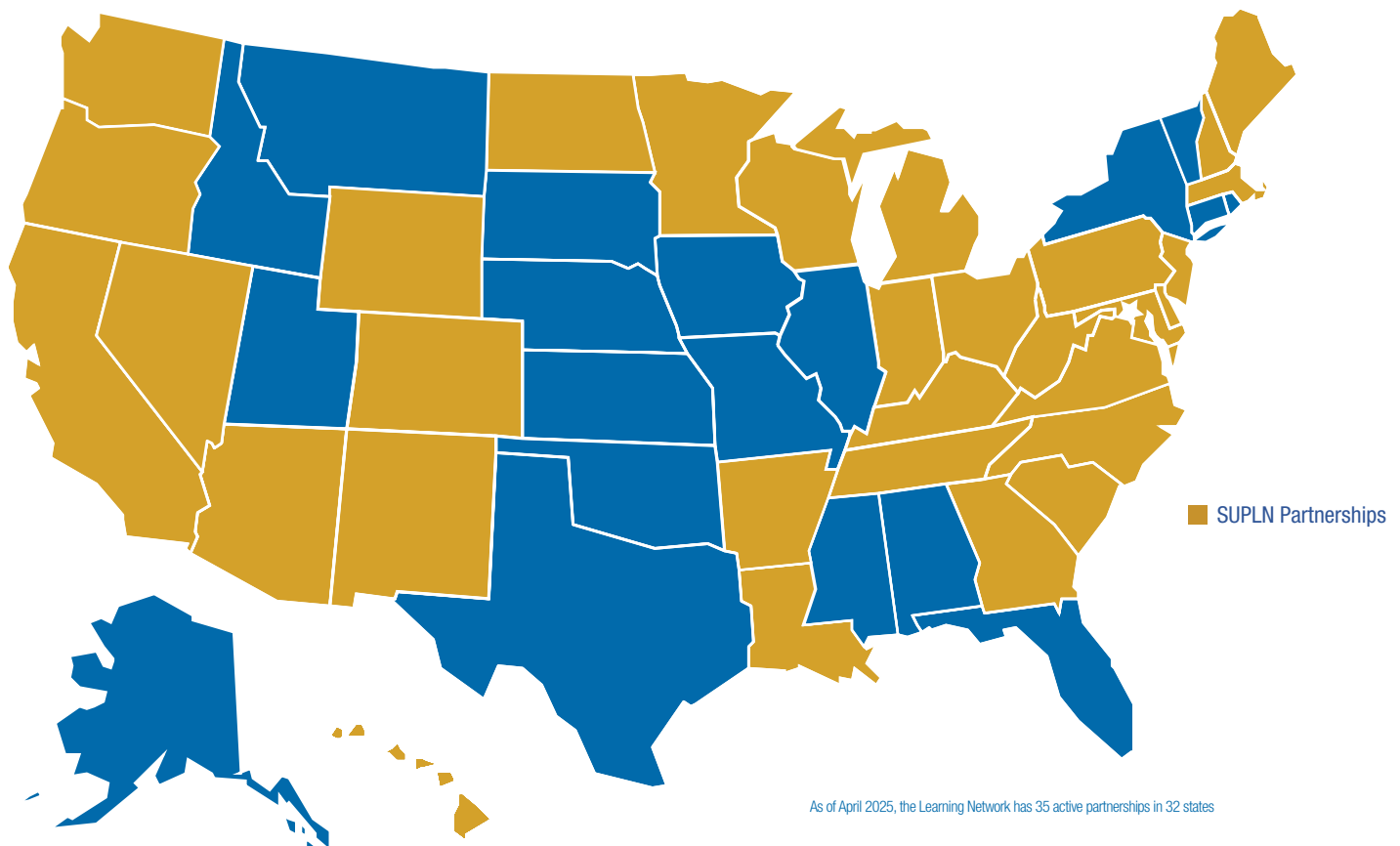


State-University Partnership Learning Network

As the health care environment becomes increasingly complex, many Medicaid programs are taking a leading role in improving coverage and access as well as transforming the delivery and payment system. With support from its Board of Directors, AcademyHealth launched the State-University Partnership Learning Network (SUPLN) in 2014 for state-based partnerships between Medicaid policymakers and their resident state or state-related university research teams.

The Learning Network partnerships are ongoing collaborations between a state Medicaid agency and/or state governmental entity and a state-related university research center. Partnerships are member-driven and focus on state-funded health programs working to provide the analysis and research, as well as program support, to create essential state-specific health information and conduct policy-related projects and programs.



The State-University Partnership Learning Network (SUPLN), managed by AcademyHealth's Evidence-Informed State Health Policy Institute, collaboratively works to support evidence-based state health policy and practice with a focus on transforming Medicaid-based health care, including addressing health disparities and improving the patient experience, health of populations, and efficiency in health care.

How the Learning Network Achieves Its Goals

To achieve the partners' aims of improved care, health, and costs in the Medicaid program, the Learning Network:

- Builds a learning community of partnerships to share and spread best practices and relevant health projects.
- Facilitates a dialogue between state government and state university research centers to improve partnership efficiency/effectiveness.
- Supports state government's capacity to conduct high-quality policy and data analysis.
- Informs state university center's research with the practical expertise of state officials and promoting state considerations in the research questions and methods.
- Provides a mechanism for comparative studies across states (addressing questions that would benefit from a multi-state perspective).
- Explores and potentially supports the development of new partnerships.

Learning Network Highlights

Cross-State Collaboration and Research Opportunities

In 2016, AcademyHealth received the first of two Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Eugene Washington PCORI Engagement Awards to build out and support the SUPLN's activities. With this award, the Learning Network has continued to support existing partnerships between researchers and policymakers, as well as facilitate new cross-state collaborative research opportunities initiated by members, such as developing a multi-state Medicaid Outcomes Distributed Research Network (MODRN). Through MODRN, participating SUPLN partners can utilize multi-state Medicaid data to address issues of national public health importance, such as the opioid crisis, while measuring the impact of innovative policies and interventions.

Peer-to-Peer Meeting

The Learning Network hosts an annual convening of state officials and health services researchers. Featuring presentations from members, as well as leadership from invited federal agencies. The annual meeting provides a chance for partnerships to share their state's work, engage in interactive peer-to-peer dialogues, and help the Learning Network prioritize issues of interest to members. Substantive topics have included:

- Data and Technology Issues in the States
- State Strategies to Address Medicaid Enrollment & Eligibility
- 1115 Demonstration Waiver Evaluation Projects
- Medicaid Transformation: Improving Care Delivery and Containing Costs
- State Medicaid Initiatives and Analytic Approaches to Improve Maternal Health and Reproductive Health Outcomes
- State Efforts to Address the Opioid Crisis
- Leveraging Medicaid to Improve Health Disparities (COVID-19 health disparities, health outcomes, vaccination rates, etc.)
- Evaluating Health Workforce Needs
- Payment and Delivery System Reform in Medicaid
- Efforts to Improve Behavioral Health Services Access and Outcomes Among Medicaid Beneficiaries

Learning Opportunities: Learning Series and Collaboration Calls

The Learning Network hosts regular peer-to-peer learning opportunities including learning series and Collaboration Calls to help members learn about both process-related issues and substantive topics important to the partnerships. Examples include:

Learning Series: Building a Sustainable State-University Partnership

Designed for emerging partners, the curriculum provides expertise and guidance on how to build a sustainable partnership. The series includes session presentations that share features of mature partnership, including the partnership structure, funding model, and nature of their working relationship. The series also spotlights the extensive analytic complacencies that public university partnerships may provide, such as program monitoring, evaluation, and predictive modeling, along with the benefits of engaging with SUPLN.

Collaboration Call: RCT Trials and Medicaid

This collaboration call, jointly held with the Medicaid Medical Director Network, showcased presentations from researchers on their experience conducting randomized control trials (RCTs) in Medicaid programs to inform program policy. State-university partnership researchers served as reactors, and participants, comprised of Medicaid clinical and research network members, were invited to join an open discussion.