



# 2018 Hepatitis C Medicaid Affinity Group: Fact Sheet

## Overview

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The Hepatitis C Medicaid Affinity Group was launched in December 2017 with the aim of increasing the number and percentage of Medicaid beneficiaries diagnosed with hepatitis C virus (HCV) who are successfully treated and cured. For the second year, the Affinity Group aims to support the continued efforts of states already participating in the group, help new state participants develop and implement their own strategies, and explore issues and strategies related to HCV in correctional settings. Given the correctional population represents about one third of total U.S. HCV cases, the Affinity Group aims to encourage collaboration between state corrections agencies, Medicaid, and public health authorities.<sup>1</sup>

## Affinity Group Partners

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The Office of HIV/AIDS and Infectious Disease Policy (OHAIDP) in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will coordinate the Hepatitis C Medicaid Affinity Group with active collaboration with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and the Office of Minority Health. Subject matter experts from collaborating federal partners will support the Affinity Group by providing technical assistance, consultation, and feedback.

## Affinity Group Activities

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- Development of an Action Plan with planned strategies and activities for improving HCV treatment and regular reporting out of progress
- Monthly calls with states and subject matter experts; every other call will address a corrections-related issue
- Two in-person conferences in Washington, DC with states and subject matter experts

## Benefits to State Participants

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- Direct technical assistance that supports improved HCV-related outcomes among Medicaid enrollees through better coordination, delivery, and assessment of high quality HCV prevention, treatment, and cure
- Opportunity for states to learn and share best and promising approaches to improve health outcomes and reduce costs by successfully treating and curing Medicaid enrollees diagnosed with HCV
- Stronger collaborative relationships among state Medicaid programs and other state partners (public or private) who are well positioned to advise and support efforts for maximum impact

**In order to participate, states must submit a completed Expression of Interest Form. The Expression of Interest form is due back to Corinna.Dan@hhs.gov on Monday, November 19, 2018 at 5:00 PM EST.**

For more information about the Hepatitis C Medicaid Affinity Group go to:

<https://www.hhs.gov/hepatitis/action-plan/federal-response/hepatitis-c-medicaid-affinity-group/index.html>.

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<sup>1</sup> *An Overview of Hepatitis C in Prisons and Jails*, National Hepatitis Corrections Network, 2016.

<http://www.hcvinprison.org/resources/71-main-content/content/191-hepcprison>