



ICCoP: Health Equity Participant FAQs

1. What is the Integrated Care Community of Practice (ICCoP) on health equity?

An Integrated Care Community of Practice (ICCoP) is composed of individuals who serve the dually eligible population and share an interest, concern, or activity that allows them to learn to solve problems or improve performance together through their interactions.

Prioritizing health equity is critical for programs aimed at integrating care for people who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. As a participant in the ICCoP on health equity, you will work with the ICCoP faculty and colleagues from other health plans to address some of the specific issues you encounter in your efforts to advance health equity. You will also learn how others have addressed shared challenges.

2. How do you define health equity?

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) define health equity as “the attainment of the highest level of health for all people, where everyone has a fair and just opportunity to attain their optimal health regardless of race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, geography, preferred language, and other factors that affect access to care and health outcomes.”¹ More information on the CMS approach to health equity, including key goals, can be found [here](#).

3. Who is sponsoring the ICCoP, and who will be facilitating it?

Experts from The Lewin Group and Community Catalyst will facilitate and manage the ICCoP, which is sponsored by the Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office (MMCO) at CMS through [Resources for Integrated Care](#). Other health plan staff will also serve as guest faculty.

3. Who are the other participants?

Participants in the ICCoP are health plan staff directly engaged in managing outreach, care coordinators, care managers, health plan administrators, and other staff responsible for advancing health equity. The ICCoP also welcomes supplemental participation from plan quality leads.

4. What topics will we discuss?

Over the course of the ICCoP, we will discuss topics identified in participant applications, made concrete through a “challenge summary” that participants present to the group to discuss and generate potential solutions. Topics may include:

¹ Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. (2022). *CMS Strategic Plan – Pillar: Health Equity*. Retrieved from <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/health-equity-fact-sheet.pdf>.

- Addressing workforce challenges, including the disproportionate burden on healthcare workers of color and alternative workforce options
- Developing supports for caregivers, using principles of cultural humility
- Engaging diverse communities through enrollee advisory councils
- Improving rates of preventative health screenings, such as mammograms and colorectal cancer screenings, for diverse populations
- Providing linguistic supports, including written material translation and verbal interpretation
- Improving engagement in diabetes prevention, screening, and treatment services among members of underserved communities and those who experience disproportionately high prevalence rates in Medicare and Medicaid
- Understanding, screening for, and meeting health-related social needs
- Improving and utilizing socio-demographic data collection
- Developing health equity action plans
- Incorporating use of community-derived data, such as community needs assessments, to drive population health management
- Delivering integrated and coordinated care to individuals living in rural areas

5. What is a “challenge summary” and how do I present one?

A “challenge summary” is a written description of a specific issue you are encountering in advancing health equity. Each participant is required to present one challenge over the course of the ICCoP. As part of your challenge presentation, faculty and other ICCoP participants will provide feedback, suggest strategies, and share how they have dealt with similar challenges in their own environments. Summaries of the challenges submitted in your application will be used to inform the work of the ICCoP.

6. What is the schedule for the ICCoP?

The ICCoP will meet once per month via Zoom videoconference. The exact schedule of sessions over a six-month period will be determined once participants have been selected.

Between sessions, we will share resources and promote dialogue through a group listserv for ICCoP participants and faculty experts.

7. What is my commitment as a participant in the ICCoP?

- Attend and actively participate in each monthly videoconference
- Prepare and present one “challenge summary” that describes an issue you are currently experiencing related to advancing health equity for members and for which you are seeking feedback and ideas from the ICCoP
- Share your own experiences or suggestions in response to challenge presentations from other ICCoP participants
- Report back to the ICCoP on your experience implementing one or more solutions to your challenge

If you have additional questions, please contact: Brandon Wilson, Center for Consumer Engagement in Health Innovation, Community Catalyst, bwilson@communitycatalyst.org or Laurel Ruesch, The Lewin Group, laurel.ruesch@lewin.com.