

The Council: Who We Are

MINNESOTA
COUNCIL of
HEALTH
PLANS



The Minnesota Council of Health Plans is an association of nonprofit health insurers whose mission is to get Minnesotans the affordable, equitable and quality-based care they need today and in the future.

We create a space where our member health plans — including [Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota](#), [HealthPartners](#), [Hennepin Health](#), [Medica](#), [Sanford Health Plan](#) and [UCare](#) — work collaboratively to bring wellness within reach for everyone in Minnesota.

BY THE NUMBERS

6 member health plans

*4.6 million
Minnesota lives covered*

*More than \$800 in payments
per second by health plans*

How we work:



PARTNERSHIP: We work in partnership with a variety of stakeholders, including people who deliver care (providers, hospitals and health systems), people who need care (children, adults and families across Minnesota) and people who work to make care better (legislators, regulators, state health officials and others) to promote policies and processes that make health care more effective for everyone.



UNDERSTANDING: We understand that health care is deeply personal, urgent and expensive. Thus, we know that having health insurance coverage helps spread out the cost of expensive health care, helping people gain access to care that they otherwise couldn't afford.



COMMUNITY: We bring Minnesota's nonprofit health plans together to focus on finding opportunities to make the health care system work better because we work here, live here and our companies' financial resources are dedicated to care for our community.



DATA: We use and develop data to inform public policy, improve care and help manage expensive medical bills on behalf of all Minnesotans.



ACTION: Through advocacy, education and legislative efforts, we take practical action today to make better health possible for generations of Minnesotans to come.

What we focus on:

ACCESSIBILITY

Having access to health care is vital in promoting the health and wellness of all Minnesotans and is necessary to prevent chronic illnesses, disabilities and premature death. Supporting this accessibility requires:

- **Helping more Minnesotans gain entry into the health care system**; this usually happens through insurance coverage.
- **Assisting Minnesotans in finding health care providers** they can easily locate and trust, as well as those who can coordinate their care.
- **Providing resources that promote healthier living** and success in life, including efforts to support food security and housing.
- **Helping Minnesotans stay well** with preventive services like screenings and vaccinations.

AFFORDABILITY

The cost of care has tripled in Minnesota over the last 20 years. Finding ways to bend the medical cost curve down to improve affordability is a requirement for the future of health care delivery. Whether they're covered through Medicaid, Medicare or private insurance, we work to find practical and innovative ways to ensure that all Minnesotans have coverage they can afford. We make this happen by:

- **Reducing medical expenses** by negotiating discounted rates with doctors, hospitals and other providers of care.
- **Supporting legislative efforts and policies** that promote drug price transparency and discourage surprise billing.
- Advancing efforts designed to stabilize the individual market and make premiums more affordable for Minnesotans who buy insurance on their own.

HEALTH EQUITY

We know that health disparities are prevalent in Minnesota. They prevent people from living a life of well-being and contribute to higher health care costs. This is why we value our work with others in the community and invest in programs that aim to reduce health disparities. These efforts include:

- **Meeting people where they are.** This includes partnering with the community to identify areas of improvement in caring for people of color and marginalized populations, as well as removing barriers to accessing health care.
- **Developing more culturally appropriate care.** We do this through programs such as investment in interpreters; providing materials in other languages to our members; and, creating processes to make it easier for all of our members to take advantage of compliance, grievance and appeals processes.
- **Creating and supporting a diverse workforce within our organizations.** This includes increasing training and education to existing staff, recruiting a diverse workforce and developing a supportive work environment to help maintain a diverse staff.

QUALITY

Quality health care ensures that Minnesotans have the desirable health outcomes they deserve. This is care that is safe, effective, patient-centered, timely, efficient and equitable. Here are a few ways that health plans help us get there:

- **Improving care by creating new models of payment** that pay providers based on the quality of our health, not the quantity of service.
- **Improving quality of care by offering cultural competency training for providers**; addressing cultural needs through quality improvement initiatives; and considering race and language when conducting data analysis for program improvement.

