

October 28, 2022

# MACPAC Response to CMS Request for Information

*Make your voice heard: Promoting efficiency and equity within CMS programs*

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Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission



[www.macpac.gov](http://www.macpac.gov)

# Overview

- CMS's request for information (RFI)
- Potential comments
  - Advancing health equity
  - Impact of COVID-19 waivers and flexibility
  - Transparency
- Next steps



# RFI: Make Your Voice Heard—Promoting Efficiency and Equity within CMS Programs

- CMS seeks comment on four topics across all CMS programs
  - Accessing health care and related challenges: personal perspectives and experiences with accessing care
  - Understanding provider experiences: provider experience and challenges in meeting patient needs
  - Advancing health equity: strategies to address health inequities
  - Impact of public health emergency waivers and flexibilities: areas for improvement and opportunities to decrease burden
- Comments are due November 4<sup>th</sup>

# Advancing Health Equity

- Areas for CMS focus to address health disparities and advance health equity
  - Collection and reporting of race and ethnicity data: improved data quality, further standardization of T-MSIS data, stratification of core set measures
  - Monitoring access to care: need for access monitoring system with a priority on populations known to experience access issues
  - Addressing disparities for dually eligible individuals: integration of Medicaid and Medicare
- How CMS can better support accommodations for people with disabilities and language needs
  - Need for multiple modes of communications

# Advancing Health Equity

- Feedback on enrollment and eligibility processes
  - Opportunities for streamlining eligibility and enrollment processes, e.g., addressing challenges to ex parte eligibility determinations
  - Need for streamlining eligibility determinations for Medicare Savings Programs
  - Importance of assistance (e.g., individualized benefit counseling and a dedicated ombudsman program) for beneficiaries enrolling in dual eligible special needs plans (D-SNPs)
  - Need for CMS guidance on implementing default enrollment into D-SNPs

# Impact of COVID-19 Waivers and Flexibilities

- Support for CMS's efforts to examine the effects of waivers in improving access to care, advancing health equity, and reducing beneficiary and provider burden
  - Streamline provider enrollment process
  - Simplify and streamline program integrity efforts
  - Assess the effects of telehealth on access quality, and cost

# Transparency

- MACPAC could reiterate its call for transparency of the RFI process previously shared in April
- It is unclear if responses will be shared publicly

## Next Steps

- Staff to draft and submit a response
- Comments are due November 4<sup>th</sup>
- MACPAC comments will posted to our website



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