# About MACPAC: Background for Commissioners

# How to describe the Commission

The Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC) is a non-partisan legislative branch agency that provides policy and data analysis and makes recommendations to Congress, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the states on a wide array of issues affecting Medicaid and the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

# Additional background

MACPAC serves as an independent source of information on Medicaid and CHIP, publishing issue briefs and data reports throughout the year to support policy analysis and program accountability. The Commission’s authorizing statute, Section 1900 of the Social Security Act, outlines a number of areas for analysis, including:

* payment;
* eligibility;
* enrollment and retention;
* coverage;
* access to care;
* quality of care; and
* the programs’ interaction with Medicare and the health care system generally.

In carrying out its work, the Commission holds public meetings in Washington, DC and regularly consults with state officials, congressional and executive branch staff, beneficiaries, health care providers, researchers, and policy experts. A permanent staff of analysts with backgrounds in public policy, public health, Medicaid and CHIP operations, and data analysis supports the Commission’s deliberations and conducts its analytic work.

# MACPAC Reports

MACPAC’s authorizing statute requires the Commission to submit reports to Congress by March 15 and June 15 of each year. Topics covered in the 2022 reports include:

* Medicaid disproportionate share hospital payments;
* The Money Follows the Person Qualified Residence Criteria;
* a new Medicaid access monitoring system;
* improving the oversight and transparency of managed care directed payments;
* improving access to vaccines in adults enrolled in Medicaid;
* encouraging health technology usage in behavioral health;
* state requirements for integrated care strategies; and
* Medicaid’s role in advancing health equity.

MACPAC also produces MACStats, a statistical supplement that pulls together multiple sources of national and state-specific program data and provides data uniquely generated by MACPAC. MACStats includes comprehensive information on eligibility, benefits and Medicaid spending, as well as other data of high priority to the Congress.

# Appointment of MACPAC Commissioners

The U.S. Comptroller General appoints MACPAC’s 17 Commissioners, who come from diverse regions across the United States and bring broad expertise and a wide range of perspectives on Medicaid and CHIP. Commissioners serve three year terms that begin May 1 and end April 30. The U.S. Government Accountability Office issues a call for nominations in the *Federal Register* for the next class of Commissioners. A list of current Commissioners is available at [www.macpac.gov](http://www.macpac.gov).

## **Public speaking**

Commissioners are sometimes asked to speak on behalf of the Commission in public forums. All such invitations should be referred to the Chair or executive director for approval in advance.  In particular, Commissioners should avoid situations in which, while they are identified as speaking on behalf of the Commission, their own personal or professional views go beyond what the Commission has publicly stated in reports, comment letters, and other forums. When speaking on Medicaid topics, Commissioners should clarify that they are not speaking on behalf of the Commission, including in identification of their affiliation in program materials. When in doubt, Commissioners should accept such speaking engagements in their own personal or professional capacities, rather than as members of MACPAC.

When speaking on behalf of the Commission, it is inappropriate for Commissioners to accept any honoraria.

# Media Inquiries

Commissioners are sometimes approached by members of the press for comment about the Commission’s work. All such invitations should be referred to the Chair, executive director, and communications director. Commissioners should avoid situations in which, while they are identified as speaking on behalf of the Commission, their own personal or professional views go beyond what the Commission has publicly stated in reports, comment letters, and other forums. When approached by members of the press to speak on Medicaid topics, Commissioners should clarify that they are not speaking on behalf of the Commission. A statement such as, “I do not speak on behalf of the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission. I should be identified by my affiliation with [fill in the blank]” is one option for handling such inquiries.

# Contributed articles, Op-eds, etc.

Commissioners often write journal articles or contribute articles to publications in the health care trade press. If the Commissioner lists their affiliation with the Commission, the article must include the following statement: ***This article does not represent the views of the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission.***