

## Health Care Payment Learning & Action Network

### Activating Community as a Driver of Health Equity

*A note from the HEAT's Co-chairs, Karen Dale and Marshall Chin*

**Our approach to health equity must be person-centered** if we wish to effectively use value-based care and alternative payment models (APMs) to meet an individual's healthcare and health-related social needs. If we want to improve health outcomes for people, we need to ensure their needs and challenges, even those beyond health, are accounted for. We know that the knowledge and ability required to effectively achieve this holistic approach goes well beyond the healthcare system.

**Community based organizations (CBOs) play an important role in addressing health disparities and inequities within and beyond the healthcare system**, providing much-needed local services and care coordination to help families and individuals thrive in their lived environments and attain their highest level of health. We acknowledge that engagement with CBOs is not synonymous with community engagement; while CBOs are not representative of the entire communities they serve, they are valuable partners and conduits for action on behalf of broader engagement with the community and the patients we serve. Engaging with CBOs is one part of the LAN HEAT's overall plan to partner with communities.

**In 2023, the LAN HEAT has made an intentional choice to focus our activities, dialogue, and materials on community engagement.** This year the HEAT will increase our own collaboration with CBOs to better understand and incorporate the lived experiences of people in their communities in APM design and implementation. We want to integrate CBOs who are supporting and representing people in their everyday lives, not just when they are in the doctor's office or hospital. Keeping in mind the spectrum of community engagement and ownership, our goal is to consult and involve CBOs in the development and implementation of solutions that will directly impact them. It's important for CBOs to have an equal seat at the table and be part of the decision making process.

**Our prioritized integration of CBOs stems from our collective desire to better understand how CBOs can be best supported during collaboration and partnership** with payers, providers, and other healthcare organizations. We also want to support and activate the best pathways for CBOs to participate in innovative payment and delivery models, so that these models can in turn increase coverage of and access for historically underserved individuals.

**In the coming months, please look out for HEAT events and publications** that will amplify and disseminate the existing work being done by CBOs in value-based care and bridge notable gaps in knowledge and understanding of CBOs and CBO partners. We look forward to your continued interest and partnership as we strive to address health disparities through payment reform!



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