



Elevating Cancer Equity Working Group Policy Change Recommendations

Congressional Recommendations

CLINICAL TRIAL DIVERSITY

- Congress should pass legislation requiring the FDA to consider clinical trial diversity as an element of the drug approval process in a way that is proportionate to the intended patient population.

SUPPORTING CANCER PREVENTION

- Congress should allocate funds for public awareness campaigns of lifestyle factors impacting cancer risk that are linguistically and culturally reflective.
- Congress should pass legislation allocating funds for public education on the importance of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine.

SUPPORTING ACCESS TO SCREENING

- Congress should allocate additional funding for CDC screening programs including the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP) and the Colorectal Cancer Control Program (CCCP). Congress should also allocate funds for screening that prioritizes cancers where disparities are particularly prevalent.
- Congress should allocate funds to be granted to community-based organizations to connect people with screening, early detection and treatment support. Congress should restore funds for the National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program.

SUPPORTING A DIVERSE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE

- Congress should allocate funds to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), tribal colleges, and other minority serving institutions (MSIs) because they excel at care, practice, education, and community engagement.

SUPPORTING PATIENT NAVIGATION

- Congress should pass legislation ensuring reimbursement of patient navigators and community health workers in Medicare/Medicaid/Private Insurance markets.

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

- Congress should allocate funds for the reconnect loan and grant program and eliminate the household threshold requirement. Access to basic infrastructure like electricity has a critical impact on health.

State and Local Policymaker Recommendations

MEDICAID EXPANSION

- State governors and legislatures should expand their state Medicaid programs to increase access to screening, early detection and care.

CMS and Commercial Payer Recommendations

ENSURING EQUITABLE ACCESS TO GENETIC TESTING AND CANCER RISK REDUCTION

- All payers should cover appropriate genetic counseling and testing for individuals at high risk of cancer as well as related risk reduction services.

ADDRESSING CLINICAL TRIAL PARTICIPATION BARRIERS

- CMS should ensure Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, and exchange plans offer coverage of the costs of clinical trial participation including parking, transportation, and lodging.

PATIENT NAVIGATION

- CMMI and commercial payers should include reimbursement for patient navigators, community health workers, care coordination, and connection to social support services in alternative payment models.

Federal Agency Recommendations

DATA COLLECTION

- The Office of Management and Budget should revise their regulations dictating the collection and reporting of federal data on race and ethnicity. Data should be disaggregated from existing methods that fail to recognize the heterogeneity of African Americans, Pacific Islanders, Asians, Hispanics, American Indians and Alaska Natives.

RESEARCH

- The Department of Health and Human Services should prioritize funds and resources for interdisciplinary research in SDOH and health disparities research. HHS should require health care systems to partner with community-based organizations to conduct research.

CANCER PREVENTION

- The CDC should make the HPV vaccine an opt-out instead of an opt-in vaccine.

PATIENT NAVIGATION

- Create a Department of Labor code for Patient Navigators.

Elevating Cancer Equity Working Group Members

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