

# Medicaid Transformation Project and Accountable Communities of Health

## Overview

Health Care Authority (HCA) purchases health care for 2 million Washington residents through the Apple Health (Medicaid) program. Through December 2021, Washington State will receive up to \$1.5 billion as part of a Section 1115 Medicaid demonstration waiver.

This waiver, called the Medicaid Transformation Project (MTP), is a five-year agreement with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Under this waiver, we can use federal funds for innovative projects, activities, and services that improve and transform Washington's health and wellness systems.

## What is the purpose of MTP?

Our goal is to ensure people enrolled in Apple Health have access to better health and better care at a lower cost. We achieve this through [five different initiatives of MTP](#).

## How is Washington State funding MTP?

The Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment and Medicaid Quality Improvement Program are federal programs where Accountable Communities of Health, managed care organizations, tribal partners, and participating public hospitals earn incentive payments by implementing projects that support care transformation for Apple Health enrollees.

## Accountable Communities of Health (ACHs)

### What's an ACH?

ACHs are independent, regional organizations. They work with their communities on specific health care and social needs-related projects and activities. This work seeks to improve the health of people in Washington State. ACHs play an integral role in Washington's MTP efforts. Although MTP is Medicaid-focused, ACHs are working in many ways to improve the health of their communities.

### What are ACHs working on?

- **Helping more people get access to care by:**
  - Addressing regional needs (e.g., building a workforce that includes more primary care providers or nurses in a region or community).
  - Offering infrastructure and alternative technologies, such as telehealth and health information technology, so patients and providers can meet virtually and share health-related information.
  - Helping communities respond to emergencies by distributing masks and funding food banks during the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Focusing on health equity and helping marginalized groups.
- **Changing the health care system to one that:**
  - Supports providers as they transition to value-based payment, rather than getting paid based on volume of services provided.
  - Coordinates care, so a patient's health care providers have the same information and are working together.

- Transitions to whole-person care, where a person can access care for their mind and body. This includes access to health care, social services, substance use disorder treatment, and other supports in one system through a network of providers. (This is also called integrated care.)

In addition to these efforts, ACHs are also working on projects that align with their region's needs and priorities, including COVID-19 response efforts. View the [ACH quarterly activity reports](#), which share what ACHs are doing to improve community health in Washington State.

## Where do I go for more information about ACHs?

Visit the [ACHs page](#) or [Initiative 1 page](#) to learn more.