



2024 Policy and Priority Areas Outline

State Policy & Priorities Areas

WORKFORCE

- Advocate for licensure and reimbursement for Clinical Pharmacists (PAs)
- Advocate for Physician Assistant licensure flexibilities (SB115 and PA licensure regulations)
- Secure ongoing support for WWAMI School of Medical Education, University of Alaska health programs, and seek opportunities to expand access to clinical residency programs
- Advocate to address critical delays in provider credentialing processes
- Support legislation to allow Medicaid reimbursement for behavioral health providers (Master of Social Work-MSW and Doctor of Psychology-PsyD) providers in training
- Support annual Alaska Housing Finance Corporation appropriation to support the Provider Housing Grant Program
- Advocate for Community Health Worker (CHW) reimbursement through Medicaid for FQHCs and other provider types
- Support access to quality early care and education opportunities for working families

SUPPORT RESPONSIBLE MEDICAID REFORM

- Secure accurate and lawful FQHC Medicaid Payment in Alaska
- Allow FQHCs and community-based organizations to determine presumptive eligibility for Medicaid to limit loss of coverage for procedural reasons in the Medicaid Redetermination process
- Maintain eligibility for Medicaid services to support access to care
- Advocate for care coordination reimbursement via PPS+, Section 2703 Health Home, and/or demonstration projects, (including reimbursement for addressing patient social drivers of health)
- Advocate to reduce administrative burdens, including onerous Medicaid travel request stipulations and requirements that add administrative burden

SOCIAL DRIVERS OF HEALTH (SDOH)

- Support legislation to increase access to safety net program support and eligibility (SB149 & HB196- Broad Based Categorical Eligibility for SNAP)

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INITIATIVES

- Advocate for the BIRCH Initiative (Behavioral Health Investment for Resilient Community Health) – containing specific advocacy for workforce, sustainability, and youth behavioral health investments, including expansion of community and school-based services

ACCESS TO MEDICATION

- Advocate to support Patient Choice of Pharmacy Act (SB121)
- Research and identify state legislative opportunities to address 340b contracting issues

Federal Policy & Priority Areas

HEALTH CENTER FUNDING

- Advocate for maximum funding for Health Centers through appropriations and authorization processes

340B

- Advocate for legislation that guarantees maximum 340b savings for Health Centers and guarantees access to full formularies of prescription drugs for Health Center patients

BROADBAND & TELEHEALTH

- Identify opportunities that expand telehealth, remote monitoring, and patient access to affordable broadband internet under the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Connected Care program and other vehicles