



The Administration for Community Living programs support the National Quality Strategy through health-related long-term services and supports. The Administration for Community Living is focused on the unique needs of individual groups, such as people with disabilities or seniors, as well as the common issues that face individuals who need community-based supports, to have the option of living in the community rather than in institutional settings. The Agency works to maximize the independence, well-being, and health of older adults, people with disabilities across the life span, and their families and caregivers by advancing effective policies, services, and supports.

Through its **Center for Integrated Programs and Center for Policy and Evaluation**, the Administration for Community Living will—

- Continue to assist States with the development of well-managed, person-centered, long-term services and supports systems. These support systems include streamlined access through a “No Wrong Door” system in order to serve all long-term services and supports populations. All payers, providers, consumers, and families of consumers in these systems are provided with easy-to-understand information on all their options, such as one-on-one counseling, and assistance in navigating the application process(es) for the public program(s), for which they may be eligible.
- Use its existing authorities, including those provided under the Affordable Care Act, to help States direct more long-term services and supports funding to home- and community-based services and emphasize the use of person-centered planning and participant-directed models that give consumers more control over the services they receive, including the ability to hire and direct their own direct-care workers. In addition, the Agency will assist States in implementing comprehensive plans to support family caregivers that include the elements of information, training, respite, and peer support, as well as person-centered planning for families with school-age children with disabilities to help them make a successful transition into adulthood.
- The Administration for Community Living supports States in their efforts to rebalance long-term services and support toward home and community-based services that are person-centered and participant-directed. In addition, ACL supports States in implementing comprehensive plans to support family caregivers. To that end, ACL’s State plan guidance for State Agencies on Aging includes required focus areas that must contain measurable objectives. Participant-Directed/Person-Centered Planning is one of four focus areas. Making fundamental changes in State policies and programs which support consumer control and choice is a critical focus for State Plans. Core programs that include services to support family caregivers are a focus area. The narratives that address these focus areas are to include quality management activities with specific reference to the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Quality Framework

- Continue to work strategically to systematically develop and implement a comprehensive set of quality measures that will be endorsed by the National Quality Forum (NQF) and used by the Department of Health and Human Services, States, and other public and private entities to help ensure that people with disabilities and older adults receive high-quality services and supports. The Administration for Community Living is the lead Agency on a Health and Human Services Department-wide project with NQF to develop a HCBS group that will develop a framework for measurement, including a definition of HCBS; perform a synthesis of evidence and an environmental scan for measures and measure concepts; identify gaps in HCBS measures based on the framework; and make recommendations for HCBS measure development efforts. The final NQF report to the Department will be made available in September 2016. More information can be found at http://www.qualityforum.org/Measuring_HCBS_Quality.aspx.

Administration on Aging

The Aging Services Program's fundamental purpose, in combination with the legislative intent that the National Aging Services Network actively participate in supporting community-based services with particular attention to serving economically and socially vulnerable elders, led the Administration on Aging to focus on three measures:

1. Improving efficiency.
2. Improving client outcomes.
3. Effectively targeting services to vulnerable elder populations.

Each measure is representative of several activities across the Aging Services Program budget, and progress toward achievement of each measure is tracked using a number of indicators. The efficiency measure and corresponding indicators are reflective of the Office of Management of Budget requirements to measure efficiency for all program activities. The client outcome measure includes indicators focusing on consumer assessment of service quality and outcome indicators focusing on nursing home predictors, successful caregiver program operation, and protection of the vulnerable elderly. The targeting measure and indicators focus on ensuring that States and communities serve the most vulnerable elders.

Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

The Administration for Community Living is dedicated to ensuring that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families are able to fully participate in and contribute to all aspects of community life in the United States and its territories under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (DD Act). The purpose of the DD Act is "to assure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of and have access to needed community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life, through culturally competent programs." By continually reviewing and modifying the performance measurement and data reporting activities under the DD Act, there is an increased focus on outcomes, including the establishment of performance measurement workgroups, enhancement and streamlining of data collection, and engagement with evaluation experts to recommend improvements.

Through its **National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR)**, the Administration for Community Living sponsors high-quality research and development efforts to generate new knowledge and research-based tools that can be used to improve the health and long-term care outcomes of people with disabilities. NIDILRR was originally authorized by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Rehabilitation Act was most recently amended by Congress on July 22, 2014, as part of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Since the enactment of this legislation, which moved NIDILRR from the Department of Education to the Administration for Community Living, NIDILRR's research and development grant programs have become integral to the Administration for Community Living's efforts to support the National Quality Strategy and to improve the quality of health and long-term care services and outcomes of people with disabilities. NIDILRR's grantees generate research-based knowledge of the health and long-term care experiences and outcomes of people with disabilities, and develop and test evidence-based services, programs, and interventions to optimize these experiences and outcomes. The following are just a few recent examples of NIDILRR-generated knowledge and tools that support the Administration for Community Living's National Quality Strategy efforts:

- A NIDILRR Field-Initiated Projects grantee at the [University of Kansas](#) published a research article that describes the positive relationship between assets and health status among people with disabilities. Because Medicaid expansion efforts under the Affordable Care Act do not limit assets in determining eligibility, these expansions may allow greater asset accumulation and improved health among people with disabilities. Hall, Kurth, & Everett (2016). Asset building: One way the ACA may improve health and employment outcomes for people with disabilities. [Journal of Disability Policy Studies. 26\(4\): 252-256.](#)
- The NIDILRR funded Research and Training Center on Psychiatric Disability and Co-Occurring Medical Conditions at the [University of Illinois at Chicago](#) published the research-based "Health and Recovery Solutions Suite" to support improved health and well-being of individuals with severe mental illness. Tools within this suite include the [Diabetes Education Toolkit](#), the [Smoking Cessation Medication Decision Aid for Physicians](#), [a guide to conducting a successful health fair](#) for people with psychiatric disabilities, and a [curriculum for weight management and obesity prevention](#) for people with psychiatric disabilities.
- NIDILRR recently awarded a new Research and Training Center grant on HCBS Outcomes Measurement to the University of Minnesota Institute on Community Integration. This Center will collaborate with the Administration for Community Living and the existing NQF effort to build the field's capacity to measure person-centered outcomes of HCBS service recipients.

In the upcoming year, the Administration for Community Living will continue to support the National Quality Strategy through health-related long-term services and supports through the administration of our programs authorized under the DD Act, the Older Americans Act, the Workforce Improvement and Opportunities Act, and others. We will also continue to advance the goals in our strategic plan, including—

- Protecting the rights of people with disabilities and older adults, and preventing their abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The Administration for Community Living finalized the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program rule.
- Updating the performance measurement and data reporting activities for the Protection

and Advocacy Agencies.

- Updating performance and reporting measures for Centers for Independent Living.
- Developing indicators of minimum compliance for Statewide Independent Living Councils.
- Issued final DD Act regulations.
- Empowering people with disabilities and older adults to make informed decisions about their health and independence and to actively participate in the design and implementation of the policies, programs, and systems that affect their lives. The Administration for Community Living funded a joint Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities/ Administration on Aging national technical assistance center on supported decisionmaking and supporting a transportation project that empowers older adults and people with disabilities to engage with local and State departments of transportation. In 2016, the Administration for Community Living's NIDILRR will make a new grant award to conduct research on promising practices in health services delivery for people with disabilities, and to test the effectiveness of at least one innovative health service delivery model for people with disabilities.
- Enabling people with disabilities and older adults to remain in the community through the provision of long-term services and supports, including supports for family caregivers. The Administration for Community Living funded Aging and Disability Resource Centers, which help older adults, people with disabilities, and their family caregivers learn about and access long-term services and supports in their communities, and by advancing an initiative in the President's fiscal year 2016 budget request that would help States and communities demonstrate how to optimize the use of public and private resources to support families who are caring for their loved ones. The Administration for Community Living's NIDILRR is also contributing to this goal by funding a [Research and Training Center on Community Living Policy](#). This Center is conducting research to identify promising practices in state LTSS systems; conducting an inventory of State LTSS programs, policies, and practices; and conducting evaluations of State transitions to managed LTSS systems.
- Advocating on behalf of people with disabilities and older adults and ensuring their interests are reflected in the design and implementation of Federal policies and programs (e.g., Employment, Housing, Transportation). Examples of how the Administration for Community Living has started to meet this goal include weighing in on regulations such as the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Settings and Department of Labor Companionship rules; assisting CMS with the rollout of the Settings rule; participating and leading intra/interagency workgroups on developmental and behavioral screening and support for children, families, and providers, elder justice, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act advisory committee on integrated employment, and Federal Partners in Transition. In collaboration with the CMS, the Administration for Community Living facilitated the first 4-week technical assistance series to a number of States on various topics related to the home- and community-based Settings rule, and continues to partner with CMS on the its review of all statewide Transition Plans submitted to CMS by States for approval.
- Continuing to develop the psychometric properties of the National Core Indicators for Aging and Disability survey instrument, as well as supporting technical assistance to States to effectively implement the tool. The Administration for Community Living will also continue to support State efforts to implement the National Core Indicators for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities survey tool.