

Kentucky Selected to Improve Diabetes Care and Reduce Health Inequities by Enhancing Access to Continuous Glucose Monitors

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Frankfort, KY - The Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS) today announced that Kentucky is among seven states selected to participate in the [*Continuous Glucose Monitor Access Accelerator*](#) program. This pioneering initiative, made possible through support from The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, aims to expand access to continuous glucose monitors (CGMs) and transform diabetes care for Medicaid beneficiaries.

“The *CGM Access Accelerator* initiative presents a unique opportunity to address health disparities in our Medicaid population and improve the lives of individuals with diabetes,” said Leitha Harris, Branch Manager in Kentucky “With the resources and guidance provided through this program, we are confident in our ability to transform diabetes care strategies, promote equitable access to CGMs, and make a lasting impact on the health of our communities in Kentucky.”

In 2021, 14% or about 242,000 of KY’s Medicaid adult members and 2,823 children under the age of 19 had a diagnosis of diabetes. CGMs are the standard of care for insulin-treated individuals with diabetes, leading to improved clinical quality, better health outcomes, and reduced health care costs. Despite this, state-by-state Medicaid CGM coverage policies are inconsistent, and restrictions may inadvertently exacerbate disparities in health outcomes for people living with diabetes.

“We believe that the *CGM Access Accelerator* program can make a tangible impact to reduce health disparities among Medicaid beneficiaries living with diabetes,” said Laurel Koester, MPH, Program Officer for the Type 1 Diabetes Program at the Helmsley Charitable Trust. “Kentucky and the other selected states will have the resources and guidance they need to transform their diabetes care strategies and promote equitable access to CGMs.”

The *CGM Access Accelerator* program will provide Kentucky with 18 months of technical support and cross-state peer learning. The seven states will receive comprehensive support and tailored technical assistance to achieve their goals, including up to \$75,000 in funding to support CGM initiatives.

About the Center for Health Care Strategies

The Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS) is a policy design and implementation partner devoted to improving outcomes for people enrolled in Medicaid. CHCS supports partners across sectors and disciplines to make more effective, efficient, and equitable care possible for millions of people across the nation. For more information, visit www.chcs.org.

About The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust

The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust aspires to improve lives by supporting exceptional efforts in the U.S. and around the world in health and select place-based initiatives. Since beginning active grantmaking in 2008, Helmsley has committed more than \$4 billion for a wide range of charitable purposes. The Helmsley Type 1 Diabetes (T1D) Program is the largest private foundation funder in the world with a focus on T1D, with more than \$1 billion to date committed to transform the trajectory of the disease and to accelerate access to 21st century care, everywhere. For more information on Helmsley and its programs, visit www.helmsleytrust.org.