

NASDDDS Selected for Arnold Ventures Grant

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALEXANDRIA, VA –The National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) is proud to announce the association was selected to receive a grant from Arnold Ventures for Medicare-Medicaid systems change work. Arnold Ventures is a philanthropy organization dedicated to tackling some of the most pressing problems in the United States. The mission of their Complex Care team is to improve care for populations with complex needs, including individuals with I/DD by investing in models of service integration that optimize outcomes. Through the grant, NASDDDS will undertake a phased approach to fully understand the knowledge, policy, and practice gaps regarding Medicare-Medicaid eligible individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). This environmental assessment will be used to inform learning opportunities for state I/DD systems and strategically influence policy change at the state and federal levels.

Data from the 2018 Medicare Payment Advisory Commission and the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission indicate that approximately 8% of individuals that are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid under the age of 65 have an intellectual disability or related condition. Some estimate that more than 50% of adults with I/DD are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid. Yet, much of the I/DD service system is not well versed in the intersection of these two federal programs and how benefits are combined to support those with I/DD who are dually eligible. Oftentimes, individuals with I/DD also have co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders that have not been well-recognized or treated in either Medicaid or Medicare.

The association's grant work will be completed in phases with each step informing future project content. The first phase involves a series of round table discussions with I/DD system leaders to determine the level of knowledge and practice for those with I/DD who become dually eligible. During the second phase, NASDDDS will develop and deploy a series of educational sessions targeting key touchpoints of the I/DD service system. The association will, then, establish a small cohort of innovator states to receive targeted technical assistance. Finally, NASDDDS will develop a policy and practice toolkit and a series of recommendations for state systems to utilize and implement.

“A comprehensive approach is needed to identify and address knowledge gaps across our systems to better support individuals and families as they navigate dual eligibility, and, importantly, to inform federal policy to ensure that optimal healthcare options are meaningfully available to people with I/DD,” said NASDDDS Executive Director Mary Sowers. “As the only association dedicated to state I/DD system leaders, NASDDDS is well positioned to take the lead in this work. We are grateful to Arnold Ventures for supporting this project and look forward to beginning this important work with the potential to positively impact the service system for many future generations.”

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The National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) represents the nation's I/DD agencies in 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico providing services to children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. NASDDDS promotes visionary leadership, systems innovation, and the development of national policies that support home and community-based services for individuals with disabilities and their families. Find out more at [THIS LINK](#).