



CENTER FOR HEALTH LAW
& POLICY INNOVATION
Harvard Law School

Pursuing Diabetes Law and Policy Reforms at the Federal Level: Key Advocacy Opportunities

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Overview of the Harvard Law School Together on Diabetes Initiative: Providing Access To Healthy Solutions (PATHS)

- State policy reform in NC and NJ
- State best practices
- Partnering with Together on Diabetes grantees on achieving policy goals
- Federal policy reform (2015)

Beating Type 2 Diabetes: Recommendations for Federal Law and Policy Reform

- Broadening ACA mandated coverage of key diabetes services in public and private insurance
- Encouraging innovation in diabetes research, prevention and care delivery by specifically directing existing federal funding or increasing funding
- Increasing access to healthy food through reforms to federal food programs

(1) Include key diabetes services in the definition of ACA Essential Health Benefits (EHBs)

- **Prevention:**
 - Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP)
- **Management:**
 - Diabetes Self-Management Education/Training (DSME/T)
- **Essential Health Benefits** must be included in:
 - Individual health plans available on the marketplace
 - Small group insurance plans
 - Medicaid expansions

(2) Add Medicare and Medicaid coverage of Diabetes Prevention Program for pre-diabetics

- The Medicare Diabetes Prevention Act
 - Introduced in 2013 by Senator Franken and Representative Davis; expected to be reintroduced in this Congress
 - Potential savings of \$1.3 billion over 9 years
- Guidance to Medicaid programs on drafting State Plan Amendments to include Diabetes Prevention Program coverage

(3) Add Medicare and Medicaid coverage of medically-tailored food

- There is a growing body of empirical research demonstrating medically tailored food:
 - improves health outcomes of the acute and chronically ill
 - slows/stops disease progression as a prevention intervention
 - reduces overall health care costs
 - reduces hospital admissions and stays
 - allows people to remain productive and live at home
- Legislation to broaden scope of coverage in Medicare
- Guidance to states to include coverage in Medicaid

(4) Increase federal funding for diabetes research and prevention

- Increased funding of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive Kidney Diseases for cure and innovative treatment research
- Increased funding of the CDC's Division of Diabetes Translation (facilitating the translation of research into clinical and public health practice) and the National Diabetes Prevention Program (working to roll out the DPP in sites nationwide)

(5) Allocate Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) funding to develop new models of diabetes prevention and care.

- CMMI funding has been used to develop and test health care payment and service delivery models that in part address both diabetes and health disparities
- However, none of the ten states with the highest diabetes rates have received CMMI awards specifically for diabetes prevention or care

(6) Align federal investments in the food system to support increased access to healthy food

- Expand the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Program to support access to healthy food at farmers market and other retail stores
- Expand funding of the Healthy Food Financing Initiative to encourage retailers to open full-service grocery stores in low-access areas

(7) Maintain federal nutrition standards for school meal programs and increase meal reimbursement rates

- The Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act (most recently authorized as the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010) is set to expire in 2015
- In the next reauthorization we are advocating to protect enhanced school food nutrition standards (that some legislators are pushing to rollback) and to increase per-meal reimbursement rates

2015 Federal Policy Roundtables

- Coverage of DPP/DSME
- National food law and policy development
- Federal efforts to support innovation in the delivery of diabetes care

Thank You!

**Questions or feedback about our
federal report and policy
roundtables?**

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