

Long-Term Enhanced Accountable Care Organization Design (LEAD) Model Medicare-Medicaid Integration Funding Opportunity

The Long-term Enhanced Accountable Care Organization Design (LEAD) Model is the CMS Innovation Center's newest Accountable Care Organization (ACO) model, set to launch in January 2027. LEAD builds upon the CMS Innovation Center's earlier accountable care work and includes a focus on better coordinating care for high-needs patients, such as those dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid and those who are homebound or home limited. Specifically, LEAD includes a Medicare-Medicaid integration component through which CMS will select two states to test an integrated care model for dually eligible individuals in Original Medicare. CMS previously presented an [ICRC webinar on LEAD](#).

CMS is pleased to share that support may be available for states interested in participating in the Medicare–Medicaid integration component of the LEAD Model.

CMS recognizes that upfront planning and implementation activities can require state resources, particularly for states pursuing new Medicare–Medicaid integration efforts. To help, Arnold Ventures has expressed interest in providing support for states that are exploring participation in the LEAD Medicare–Medicaid integration component and would benefit from assistance.

Potential areas of support could include planning activities, technical and operational design work, analytic support, and other early implementation activities. Funding could go to the state or to technical assistance providers that support the state. For example, states could receive support assessing financial risks and developing necessary risk-sharing arrangement terms.

This opportunity is made possible through the Advancing Medicare-Medicaid Integration (AMMI) initiative. It will be administered independently from CMS by Arnold Ventures in partnership with the Center for Health Care Strategies and will be subject to the AMMI initiative's own priorities, timelines, application processes, and funding availability. CMS is sharing this information to help ensure that interested states are aware of potential external resources that may support participation.

States that would like to learn more about the LEAD Medicare–Medicaid integration component or discuss potential participation are encouraged to reach out to the LEAD team at LEAD@cms.hhs.gov.

States that are interested in learning more about this funding opportunity are encouraged to reach out to the Center for Health Care Strategies at medicare-medicaid@chcs.org.

ABOUT THE INTEGRATED CARE RESOURCE CENTER

The Integrated Care Resource Center is a national initiative of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to help states improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of care for individuals dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. The state technical assistance activities are coordinated by Mathematica and the Center for Health Care Strategies. For more information, visit www.integratedcareresourcecenter.com.

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