



HEALTH



Addressing Health Disparities

NCAPA recommends that policymakers take action to reduce health disparities by supporting programs that prevent and treat issues relevant to AA and NHPIs, including mental health, hepatitis B, reproductive health, and gender-based violence. It also calls on them to provide an action plan to reduce health disparities, such as strategies found in the Health Equity and Accountability Act.

Expand Immigrant Patient Protections and Access

NCAPA calls for actions to ensure that immigration status is not a barrier to health care by: (1) removing restrictive immigration requirements for Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Medicaid eligibility; (2) expanding the number and types of immigrants eligible for health insurance assistance; (3) rescinding the current Administration's public charge rule that expands the use or potential use of public benefits to include Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and federal housing assistance in order to deny an immigrant entry into the U.S. or ability to obtain a green card.

NCAPA also calls for expanding current policies and programs that extend health care access and prohibit discrimination under provisions of the ACA, and for the full extension of federal health programs to Pacific Islander communities in the territories.

Recommendations

- Reverse actions by the Trump administration that have undermined the ACA. Actions that the Administration has taken include: (1) promoting health plans that do not comply with ACA standards; (2) allowing for discrimination against consumers with pre-existing conditions; and (3) cutting funding for the Navigator program.
- Improve affordability and access under the ACA by: (1) allowing more families to qualify for tax credits so they can afford health insurance coverage; (2) investing more dollars in consumer outreach and assistance; (3) limiting the sale of short-term plans that do not provide comprehensive coverage; and (4) protecting coverage for individuals with pre-existing conditions.
- Prohibit state Medicaid waivers that implement work requirements, premiums, partial expansion and other actions that are not in line with the purposes of the Medicaid program.
- Oppose efforts to cut funding and support for culturally and linguistically appropriate health and mental health programs, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Racial and Ethnic Community Approaches to Health (CDC REACH) program.
- Require the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to develop partnerships with local AA and NHPI advocacy and behavioral health organizations to engage in strategies to increase awareness of symptoms of mental illness common among AA and NHPI populations, provide linguistically and culturally appropriate interventions, and encourage individuals and communities to use a comprehensive, public health approach when addressing mental and behavioral health.
- Oppose instances of institutional discrimination, including discriminatory DOD discharge policies, against those living with chronic hepatitis B.
- Support federally qualified health centers and expand access to preventive services, including vaccination, testing, treatment, linkage to care, and support for hepatitis B, tuberculosis, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, and cancer.
- Support a person's right to access abortion care by removing abortion bans at the state and federal levels and by lifting bans that deny abortion coverage in public and private health insurance.
- Strengthen and reauthorize the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act through FY 2029 to provide better access to health care services and community programming, increased representation of Native Hawaiians in health care professions, and availability of traditional healing and other complementary practices.
- Remove inequitable funding caps and federal reimbursement limits for the U.S. territories (American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) and extend eligibility for health programs, including permitting Medicaid disproportionate share hospital (DSH) allotments for the territories.
- Reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and the Family Violence Services and Prevention Act (FVPSA).
- Provide sufficient resources and guidance for USCIS to process visas for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and other crimes and VAWA self-petition applications in a prompt and timely manner and provide access to employment authorization within six months of application.