

PROGRAM SUMMARY

CDC COVID-19 Health Disparities Grant

Hospital Commitment to Health Equity

Arizona Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) Strategic Plan Assessment: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Measure

Background

In late 2022, information was provided nationally on a new CMS Measure, Hospital Commitment to Health Equity encompassing five “Domains.” – These are:

- ▶ **Domain 1- Equity as a Strategic Priority;**
- ▶ Domain 2 – Data Collection;
- ▶ Domain 3- Data Analysis;
- ▶ Domain 4 – Quality Improvement;
- ▶ Domain 5 – Leadership Engagement.

The AHEAD AZ funded projects focused on enhancing health equity across Arizona specifically targeting rural communities. A proposed project to introduce this new CMS measure to Arizona’s 17 Critical Access Hospitals (AzCAHs) and engage hospital leadership and their Board of Directors to

participate was submitted and approved by AHEAD AZ leadership. The effort focused only on assessing whether the AzCAHs met the criteria specified under **Domain 1 within the hospital’s Strategic Plan** - identifying priority populations; identifying health equity goals; identifying needed resources; and identifying approaches to engage stakeholders. Of the 17 AzCAHs, 12 participated in the program and 6 completed the assessment to date.

The project began in June 2023 and was completed April 2024.



Arizona Critical Access Hospital Results (N= 17 hospitals)



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Requirements to Meet CMS Hospital Commitment to Health Equity

Structural Measure

Components of Health Equity Measure



Domain 1: Equity is a Strategic Priority

- ▶ Hospital Strategic Plan identifies priority populations currently experiencing health disparities
- ▶ Hospital Strategic Plan identifies healthcare equity goals and discrete action steps to achieve goals
- ▶ Hospital Strategic Plan outlines resources dedicated to achieving goals, such as dedicated staff, structural resources, funding, and trainings
- ▶ Hospital Strategic Plan describes approach to engage key stakeholders, such as community-based organizations

Domain 2: Data Collection

- ▶ Hospital collects demographic information and/or social determinant of health information on patients
- ▶ Hospital trains staff in culturally sensitive collection of demographics and/or social determinant of health information
- ▶ Hospital inputs data collected from patients into structured, interoperable data elements using certified EHR technology

Domain 3: Data Analysis

- ▶ Hospital stratifies key performance indicators by demographic and/or social determinant of health variables to identify equity gaps and includes the information on hospital performance dashboards

Domain 4: Quality Improvement

- ▶ Hospital participates in local, regional, or national quality improvement activities focused on reducing health disparities

Domain 5: Leadership Engagement

- ▶ Hospital senior leadership, including chief executives and entire hospital board of trustees, annually reviews Strategic Plan to achieve health equity
- ▶ Hospital senior leadership, including chief executives and entire hospital board of trustees, annually reviews key performance indicators stratified by demographic and/or social factors

- ▶ Reference: <https://njha.com/resources/toolkits/cms-health-equity-toolkit#Commitment>

Stepping into the future:

During the performance period of this project, additional resources were collected for future use in helping the AzCAHs meet the requirements outlined for this measure. Further, the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy has included the CMS Measure as a 'Global Measure' under the Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project (MBQIP) for FY 2024 – 2029. Proposed implementation is scheduled for January 2025.

AzCRH's Arizona Rural Hospital Flexibility Program staff will be working to support technical assistance needs.



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