



National Association of State Medicaid Directors

an affiliate of the American Public Human Services Association

## 2009 BENEFITS OF STATE MEDICAID DIRECTORS' MEMBERSHIP

The National Association of State Medicaid Directors (NASMD) is a professional, nonprofit organization of representatives of state Medicaid agencies, including the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and territories. Since 1979, NASMD has been affiliated with the American Public Human Services Association (APHSA). The primary purposes of NASMD are to serve as a focal point of communication between states and the federal government, and to provide an information network among the states on issues pertinent to the Medicaid program.

The primary benefits of membership in NASMD include:

**State Representation on Key Issues before Congress, CMS and other Federal Agencies.** One of the most important tasks of NASMD is to represent the interests of states to Congress and the administration. NASMD facilitates member interaction with key congressional leadership and staff, including organizing issue briefings on Medicaid policy concerns and encouraging members to participate in committee hearings on critical issues.

**Analysis and Monitoring of the Federal Budget and Legislation.** NASMD staff provides analysis and monitoring of the federal health and human service budget to identify issues affecting Medicaid, SCHIP and related programs, such as proposals to cap states' administrative claim allotments, reduce states' provider taxing options, limit the rehabilitation option, and limit the services allowable under school-based health. NASMD staff also provides analysis and monitoring of federal legislation and implementation of legislation such as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and CHIPRA legislation. NASMD hosts conference calls presenting key information not publicly available to help members be better prepared to discuss the budget proposal and assess its impact on their states.

**Dissemination of Timely Information to States.** NASMD provides members with the most up-to-date and accurate information on Medicaid issues. A variety of dissemination tools are used, including all-state calls, health policy related e-mail alerts and updates, and listserv distribution of materials.

- **All-State Calls** — NASMD holds numerous all-state calls on a variety of topics, including calls on targeted case management and other new or proposed federal regulations; the Payment Error Rate Measurement (PERM) program; fraud and abuse issues; federal budget updates and pending federal legislation.
- **Surveys and Reports** — NASMD also provides states with current and timely information on a variety of requested topics. Topics have included asset verification, pharmacy issues, long-term care, quality measures, and numerous surveys on Part D.

**Working with Partner Associations.** NASMD staff work to ensure substantial interaction and cooperation among APHSA-affiliated human service programs—Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, programs for individuals with disabilities, child welfare programs, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and public welfare programs. In addition, NASMD staff maintains excellent relationships with other organizations that represent states, including the National Governors Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the National Association of State Budget Officers, the National Association of State Units on Aging, the National Association of Directors of Developmental Disability Services, and the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors.

**Convening National Conferences.** The Fall NASMD conference has become one of the premier meetings for those in the health field. More than 600 people, representing 49 states and the territories, attended and participated in our Fall 2008 Conference. The Spring meeting, exclusively for Medicaid Directors and key staff, affords directors an opportunity to meet, one-on-one, with their colleagues in other states. NASMD's conference agendas address timely issues and provide substantive information that is of interest to policymakers and other stakeholders at the state and federal levels. As a result, we are able to draw nationally recognized speakers, policymakers and leaders to present at our conferences.