

# Parity at 10 | National Partner Roles and Activities

## Mission

Parity at 10 is a three-year campaign to establish effective models for robust enforcement of the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (Parity Act) in 10 states and to disseminate those models across the country. The campaign seeks to ensure that insurance carriers and State Medicaid programs offer fully parity compliant substance use and mental health benefits in order to ensure that consumers receive the evidence-based health care they need and are entitled to receive.

Our work will include:

- An assessment of each State's treatment delivery system and parity compliance within the private and public insurance markets;
- Public and provider education about the Parity Act;
- Advocacy among legislators, regulators and Attorneys General to address state-specific barriers to care that can be remedied by more effective parity enforcement; and
- Advocacy for the adoption of a pre-market, prospective regulatory review process to ensure that plans comply with the Parity Act before they are sold.

## National Partners

The campaign is spearheaded by five of the nation's leading advocacy organizations for effective enforcement of the Parity Act. A brief introduction to each National Partner and their planned project tasks follows:

### [Legal Action Center \(LAC\)](#)

Established in 1973, the Legal Action Center is the only non-profit law and policy organization in the United States whose sole mission is to fight discrimination against people with histories of addiction, HIV/AIDS, or criminal records, and to advocate for sound public policies in these areas.

LAC serves as the director of the Parity at 10 campaign, and as such, oversees all project-related activities. Additionally, LAC will support:

- State campaign strategy and work plan development
- Regulatory and legislative advocacy
- Attorney general engagement
- Engagement with carriers and Medicaid Managed Care Organizations
- Communications-related efforts, including the development of a central Parity at 10 campaign website, media engagement, and creating and disseminating materials for policymakers and AGs coordination

### [The Kennedy Forum](#)

Founded in 2013 by former Congressman Patrick J. Kennedy (D-R.I.), The Kennedy Forum focuses on advancing evidence-based practices, policies, and programming in mental health and substance use issues. This is achieved through promoting public discourse in health and addiction issues, ensuring equal coverage for patients living with mental health and/or substance use disorders; and advancing prevention and treatment throughout the entire continuum of the healthcare delivery system.

The Kennedy Forum will primarily support:

- Landscape research and standard analysis
- Regulatory and legislative advocacy
- Attorney general engagement
- Engagement with carriers and Medicaid Managed Care Organizations

#### [The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse](#)

The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) is a national nonprofit research and policy organization focused on improving the understanding, prevention and treatment of substance use and addiction. Founded in 1992 by former U.S. Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, Joseph A. Califano, Jr., our interdisciplinary experts collaborate with others to promote effective policies and practices.

CASA will primarily support:

- Landscape research and standard analysis
- State campaign strategy development
- State campaign implementation – regulatory and legislative advocacy

#### [Partnership for Drug-Free Kids](#)

Partnership for Drug-Free Kids is a national nonprofit that is committed to helping families struggling with their son or daughter's substance use. They empower families with information, support and guidance to get the help their loved one needs and deserves. They build healthy communities, advocating for greater understanding and more effective programs to treat the disease of addiction.

The Partnership for Drug-Free Kids will primarily support:

- Consumer and family member education
- Communications efforts, including the development and dissemination of consumer/ family member education materials
- Outcome measure development and performance metrics tracking – consumers/family member

#### [Public Health Management Corporation's Research & Evaluation Group](#)

The Research & Evaluation Group at Public Health Management Corporation (PHMC) is dedicated to helping clients understand their communities, improve their programming, and deepen their impact on public health and education. The addiction research is led by the team from the Treatment Research Institute, which became a part of PHMC in 2017. As part of PHMC, and as a member of the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI), the team partners with clients to address pressing research questions, produce science-driven evaluations, inform programming, and facilitate technical assistance and strategy development.

PHMC will primarily support:

- Project coordination, including state campaign strategy and work plan development
- The development of outcome metrics to track campaign progress over time
- Development and administration of a provider parity knowledge survey, the results of which will be used to inform targeted provider education materials and dissemination strategies