

New Project to Address Barriers and Policy Options for YSHCN Aging out of Public Programs

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The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health has received funding from the [Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health](#) to address the cliff that low-income youth with special health care needs (YSHCN) face as they age into adulthood and lose their child eligibility status in 4 major public programs: Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Program, and Title V Programs for Children with Special Needs. To date, there has been very little research, policy, and advocacy attention on this aging out process among YSHCN.

With this funding, The National Alliance intends to examine the disruptions and barriers experienced by all YSCHN – with special attention to Black YSHCN – in order to identify those state and federal policy and program strategies that will ensure access to adult public program benefits. The organization will identify efforts underway to reduce disruptions in public program access during this critical transition to adulthood – when Medicaid's child eligibility status ends, when eligibility for CHIP finishes, when almost half of SSI recipients lose their eligibility during the age 18-redetermination process, and when care coordination and other direct services offered by state Title V programs stop. Finally, The National Alliance expects the work will provide a call for action for targeting policy and program changes to ensure continued and equitable access to health coverage and care among transition-aged YSHCN.

With a national advisory group of legal and policy experts and disability and family/young adult advocates, the 2-year project will involve the following activities:

1. A needs assessment that includes a 5-state study focused on an examination of access barriers among Black YSHCN;
2. An environmental scan of policy and program strategies for each program; and
3. A dissemination strategy utilizing an article and individual program briefs accompanied by a series of presentations.

For more information about this grant, please visit The National Alliance at thenationalalliance.org or contact Annie Schmidt at ASchmidt@TheNationalAlliance.org.

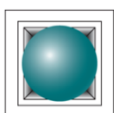
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About The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health

The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to achieve long-term, systemic improvements in comprehensive health care and insurance coverage for adolescents. Through policy analysis, technical assistance, quality improvement, and advocacy, The National Alliance works to promote effective transitions from pediatric to adult health care as part of its [Got Transition program](#). In collaboration with others, The National Alliance also works to expand the availability of adolescent-centered care, access to mental health services, and improvements in health insurance coverage for adolescents and young adults. For more information, visit thenationalalliance.org.

About the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health

The Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health was founded in 1997 as an independent public charity, established to ensure a continued source of funding and support for the health and well-being of children. Its mission is to elevate the priority of children's health and increase the quality and accessibility of children's health care through leadership and direct investment. The Foundation works in alignment with Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford and the child health programs of Stanford University. For more information, visit lpfch.org.



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