

**NEWS RELEASE
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MHPA Invites, Offers Assistance to Government Officials and Medicaid Leaders to Maximize Vaccine Distribution & Access

Washington, DC, March 9, 2021 - Medicaid Health Plans of America (MHPA), the only association solely representing Medicaid managed care organizations, wrote a letter to the [National Association of Medicaid Directors](#) (NAMD), the [National Governors Association](#) (NGA), and the [Association of State and Territorial Health Officials](#) (ASTHO) to invite and offer assistance in equitably and efficiently distributing the COVID-19 vaccines to Medicaid beneficiaries nationwide.

“Medicaid MCOs have the core competencies and skill sets to help people get health care - particularly underserved and marginalized populations,” **MHPA wrote in the letter.** “We believe our areas of expertise and experience can inform strategies and approaches that apply to and can help support ongoing efforts to get ‘shots into arms,’ particularly for at-risk populations.”

MHPA continued, “States are at the forefront of efforts to advance vaccine distribution and access across the nation. With vaccine availability subject to change on a daily, even hourly, basis, there are learnings from varied state approaches that can improve policy and/or operational strategies to help maximize vaccine access, particularly for a state’s most vulnerable populations. While each state is unique, we believe sharing approaches that have been effective for Medicaid managed care populations would present potential alternatives for states that seek improvement in some aspect of or in their overall approach to vaccine distribution and access.

To that end, MHPA invites the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, the National Association of Medicaid Directors, and the National Governors Association to co-convene a forum to facilitate the sharing of ‘best practices’ for the benefit of all states, and, most importantly, to work together in the best interests of public health during this rapidly changing environment. We would underscore that Medicaid MCOs are willing partners to assist state efforts.”



PDFs of the letters are available [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

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About Medicaid Health Plans of America

Founded in 1995, the Medicaid Health Plans of America (MHPA) represents the interests of the Medicaid managed care industry through advocacy and research to support innovative policy solutions that enhance the delivery of comprehensive, cost-effective, and quality health care for Medicaid enrollees. MHPA works on behalf of its 120+ member health plans, known as managed care organizations (MCOs), which serve approximately 36 million Medicaid enrollees in 38 states, or about one-third of all Medicaid beneficiaries in states with managed care delivery systems. MHPA's members include both for-profit and non-profit, national and regional, as well as single-state health plans that compete in the Medicaid market.

www.medicaidplans.org