

Model Policy: Statewide Access to PACE

OVERVIEW

PACE can play a significant role in supporting the goals of state and federal policy-makers to serve individuals who need long-term services and supports (LTSS) in capitated and integrated care models. PACE offers consumers a provider-based alternative to larger, insurer-based managed care plans while helping policy-makers achieve their goals for more effective and efficient care.

However, enrollment in a PACE organization is limited to those who reside within its defined service area. The service area is established in the PACE program agreement with the state and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Since PACE can serve only those who live in the defined service area, it is a limited state option. The state should consider how to expand access to PACE services through new programs and/or expanded service areas. This will allow PACE organizations to care for a larger number of those who need LTSS.

MODEL POLICY ¹

States will examine the LTSS needs of its population and adequately expand PACE to meet those needs.

- ★ The state will assess the projected growth for its population of age 55 and over that meets a nursing home level of care and will expand PACE through new programs or expanding service area agreements to meet the needs of that population.
- ★ The state will explore areas that are unserved or underserved by PACE and assess whether they have a sufficient geographic size and population to ensure the PACE model will be financially viable. Once the assessment is completed, the state will prioritize counties and seek providers.
- ★ The state will use a Request for Proposals process to identify the interest of prospective PACE organizations in defined service areas with sufficient geographic size and population to support financially viable operations.
- ★ Applications for new PACE programs or PACE service area expansions will be processed by the state in a timely manner.
- ★ The state will provide sufficient funding to support PACE growth in response to provider and consumer interest and need.

¹ This policy is based on several best practices and more of compilation of what some states are doing. No one state is currently doing all of this.