



Can you imagine a high quality health care system that is

COMPASSIONATE,
FAIR & AFFORDABLE?

Health care that works for everyone?

We can.

COMMUNITY CATALYST is a national advocacy organization that has been giving consumers a voice in health care reform for more than a decade.

We provide leadership and support to state and local consumer organizations, policymakers and foundations that are working to guarantee access to high-quality, affordable health care and health coverage for everyone.

Our contributions, which range from policy analysis and strategic assistance to managing national campaigns, enable consumer groups to provide leadership in the hard work of transforming the U.S. health care system.

Since 1997, in states and communities across the country, we have been a catalyst for *collaboration, innovation, and action* in health care.

COLLABORATION

Meaningful reform requires an organized consumer voice that crosses the boundaries of communities, states, health care sectors and stakeholders. Community Catalyst helps advocacy organizations and grassroots groups develop expertise, build organizational capacity, and collaborate for positive change. Our experienced policy analysts, attorneys, community organizers and communications specialists work with organizations in more than 40 states.

Whether we are building consumer coalitions to expand access to health care coverage, crafting regulations to help patients avoid crushing medical debt, or improving the quality of care for children in low-income families...we are a catalyst for collaboration.

INNOVATION

Community Catalyst continually generates new and creative ways to strengthen consumer involvement to solve intractable problems in health care. We are willing to question the conventional wisdom and to challenge assumptions – including our own – as we develop the groundbreaking research, publications, tools and strategies that lead to positive change.

Whether we are developing a web-based service that simplifies enrollment in government benefit programs, creating a simple tool that helps advocates draft customized legislation, or helping design a new model for bringing high-quality care to people with complex medical needs... we are a catalyst for innovation.

ACTION

Community Catalyst focuses on issues and approaches that stimulate policy and institutional change resulting in tangible benefits for consumers. We strengthen organized consumer voices wherever important decisions about the health system are made – in communities, courtrooms, statehouses and Congress.

Whether we are protecting safety net programs for uninsured and underinsured adults, challenging drug company pricing and marketing abuses, or improving the quality of health care systems...we are a catalyst for action.



Imagine a health care system where patient needs and interests come first and consumers shape comprehensive reform at the local, state and federal levels.

Building a strong and informed consumer voice

Our health care system is badly in need of repair, but reform should not be shaped exclusively by powerful interests. Community Catalyst supports state and local advocacy groups so an organized consumer voice is heard in health care debates.

The *State Consumer Health Advocacy Program* provides a broad range of training, development and coalition-building support to consumer advocates, tailored to the unique circumstances in each state. We offer practical tools like an online system for advocates to design coverage expansions step-by-step, building on their states' existing public and private health insurance options.

As a region, the South presents specific challenges due to poverty, political environments and disparities in health care access and outcomes. People with lower incomes and members of racial, ethnic and cultural minorities are most at risk under our current health system. We make sure they are engaged in shaping reform. Funded by the Public Welfare Foundation, our *Southern Health Partners* program uses a regional framework to help consumer advocates address issues such as children's health care, tobacco control, Medicaid coverage, and access to care.

Community Catalyst ensures that federal reform efforts are informed by the experiences and accomplishments of state health advocates. We promote federal policies that protect consumers and support successful state initiatives, and we help consumer advocates influence national health policy.

Imagine a health care system where high-quality health care is available to everyone, regardless of age, income, race, health status or where they live.

Expanding health care access

Tens of millions of Americans do not have health insurance, and millions more have coverage that is inadequate. Community Catalyst helps create and nurture some of the country's most influential health advocacy groups to tackle complex issues essential to meaningful reform – funding, access to care, benefit design, and affordability.

“Making high-quality, affordable health care available to all Americans is one of the central challenges of our time, and we should pay close attention to the innovative solutions being tried in states across the country. Community Catalyst brings diverse groups together in support of reform, ensures that the consumer voice is heard, and breaks through the complexity of health policy and politics. Their work has helped countless low-income adults and children gain access to the health care they need.” Edward M. Kennedy, U.S. Senator

Consumer Voices for Coverage, a joint initiative with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, recognizes consumer advocates' crucial role in expanding innovative and comprehensive health care. As the National Program Office, we promote cross-state coordination so advocates can share strategies and policy solutions while identifying emerging opportunities for action.

The *New England Alliance for Children's Health* builds coalitions of hospitals, advocates, healthcare providers, business leaders, interfaith organizations, and consumers to ensure that all children in the region have access to the highest quality healthcare.

Improving quality of care

The health care system is confusing for everyone, but especially for seniors, people with disabilities and those with complex health care needs. Without appropriate care tailored to their individual needs, they become sicker and end up in hospitals or nursing homes.

The *Integrated Care Advocacy Project* works to change the way care is delivered to people with special health needs. We promote coordinated care systems that improve quality and bring greater value to public programs. Fostering partnerships between mission-driven health plans and consumer advocates, we advance small-scale innovations to bring about big changes that reach throughout the health system.

“The research and analysis Community Catalyst developed for us on making premiums affordable for people with chronic illness was extraordinary. They quickly provided all the information we were hoping for, and more. Their policy work is exemplary and we are very grateful to have Community Catalyst as partners in our fight for health care reform in Pennsylvania.”

Jessica Seabury, executive director of Pennsylvania's Consumer Health Coalition



Imagine a health care system where all patients get the care and support they need to lead healthy lives.

Reducing medical debt and protecting hospital safety-net care

Medical debt is the #1 cause of personal bankruptcy in the United States, and it is not just a problem of the poor and uninsured. Millions of Americans have health insurance that fails to cover them adequately.

Community Catalyst helps communities establish enforceable standards that ensure nonprofit hospitals and health plans provide charity care and programs to address unmet health care needs. The *Hospital Accountability Project* provides grants to coalitions working to increase safety-net care and eliminate unfair billing practices so that people do not fall into a cycle of medical debt.



When nonprofit health care organizations convert to for-profit status, Community Catalyst focuses on maintaining vital community health services while preserving charitable assets that have been built by and for the public. We work with state and local health foundations to engage communities in health system improvement.

Ensuring access to public benefits for low-income families

Community Catalyst developed RealBenefits® to combat the lack of information, complex procedures, and confusing rules that keep millions of people from enrolling in public programs for which they qualify. RealBenefits advocates policy change to streamline benefits enrollment nationwide.

Its web-based service enables organizations to easily connect people with health insurance, food stamps and other services. The MacArthur Foundation has honored RealBenefits for its innovative combination of technology and community outreach.

Imagine a health care system where the benefits of pharmaceutical innovations are available to everyone, without excessive costs, deceptive marketing, or conflicts of interest that compromise patient care.

Making pharmaceuticals affordable and safe

The *Prescription Project* works to eliminate conflicts of interest that result from the gifts, dinners and samples that drug companies offer providers. The project, created with Pew Charitable Trusts, leads a national effort to eliminate drug company abuses through action by Congress, the FDA, state legislatures and academic medical centers.

We promote prescribing based on scientific evidence, not marketing. Community Catalyst also helps community-based organizations educate consumers about the safety, value and effectiveness of generic drugs.

Prescription Access Litigation built a coalition of more than 130 consumer advocacy organizations, labor unions, and nonprofit health plans challenging anti-competitive practices, price manipulation and deceptive marketing in the pharmaceutical industry.

The coalition has been involved in more than 30 class action lawsuits and resulting settlements have changed the way drug companies conduct business and reimbursed more than \$600 million to consumers and health plans that were illegally overcharged.

“Community Catalyst equips state and local consumer advocacy organizations with knowledge, policy analysis, and organizing strategies to build successful consumer advocacy efforts. We little guys wouldn’t stand a chance against these powerful financial interests without Community Catalyst.” Cathy Levine, executive director of Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio



Please visit www.communitycatalyst.org for more information and join us in becoming a catalyst for collaboration, innovation, and action in health care.

Together, we can create a health care system that is compassionate, fair and affordable.

Health care that works for everyone.



“Achieving stable and affordable health care coverage for all Americans is a top priority for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and we are committed to strengthening the role that consumer advocates can play in promoting innovative and comprehensive health reform efforts at the state level. Community Catalyst has demonstrated their ability to provide dynamic leadership to this empowerment effort.” John Lumpkin, M.D., M.P.H., senior vice president and director of the Health Care Group at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

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ACTION • INNOVATION

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The U.S. health care system is badly in need of repair, but health care reform should not be shaped exclusively by powerful interests.

Health care is better when consumers have a voice.



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