

UCARE'S COMMUNITY BENEFIT PROGRAM

REACHING OUT TO MINNESOTA COMMUNITIES

UCare understands that healthy communities lead to healthy citizens. That's why we direct funding to support partnerships with local clinics, hospitals, counties, providers, and a wide variety of community-based organizations. UCare makes these positive investments to help extend and improve the ability of local partners to raise the quality of their care, improve access, and use their assets cost effectively. The result is improved community health and a stronger health care safety net for at-risk families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities.

IMPROVING COMMUNITY HEALTH AND ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY CARE

UCare collaborates with counties, providers, state agencies, and the University of Minnesota Medical School, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, and School of Dentistry to improve the health of all Minnesotans. These collaborations and community benefit funding activities address:

- Dental care access issues.
- Health education for youth, pregnant women, families, and seniors.
- Self-care, childhood obesity, tobacco cessation, safety, falls prevention, nutrition, fitness, and depression.



- Outreach to help eligibles apply for Medical Assistance.
- Cultural competence needs of providers.
- Coverage for gaps in reimbursement.

SUPPORTING CLINICS IN THE DELIVERY OF HIGH-QUALITY, COST-EFFECTIVE CARE

UCare provides funding to network clinic projects designed to enhance a clinic's ability to provide high-quality, cost-effective care to member patients, as well as others in its general patient population. Recent clinic initiatives have supported:

- Creation of electronic health maintenance and best practice alerts for clinicians.
- Improvement of child wellness visit documentation.
- Grants to rural clinics to improve clinical outcome measures.
- Improved lead testing rates.
- Grants to clinics to support Minnesota's Quality Care and Rewarding Excellence (Q-Care) program.
- Initiatives to reduce disparities in health care service and delivery, especially in clinics serving diverse populations.

INVESTING IN QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS

UCare devotes substantial resources to improve health care quality and accessibility to critical quality data through sponsorships and partnerships with cutting-edge organizations, including:

- The *Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement*, a non-profit entity focused on the adoption of evidence-based medicine practice guidelines for the diagnosis, treatment, and management of numerous diseases and health conditions.
- *MN Community Measurement*, a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving as a one-stop resource to access publicly reported quality comparisons among provider groups and clinics.

SUPPORTING PRIMARY CARE MEDICINE AND EDUCATION

- The UCare Fund of the Minnesota Medical Foundation is a community-directed initiative that provides grants and staff resources to support practitioners affiliated with the University of Minnesota Medical School's Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, as well as community health care providers.
- UCare also makes contributions to the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health to strengthen family medicine and preventive health services, particularly for communities that may experience difficulties forming connections with a medical home.



UCare Values Collaborations with Public Health

UCare is an active partner in a multitude of public health collaborations that bring communities, counties, health plans, and practitioners together to enhance medical care. These public health collaborations can contribute to achieving clinical health objectives and break down cultural barriers to accessing health care among minority communities. Examples of UCare's engagement with public health collaborations include:

- Minnesota Health Literacy Partnership.
- Hmong Health Care Professional Coalition.
- Multilingual Health Resource Exchange.
- Minnesota Community Health Worker Project.
- Minnesota Health Information Exchange.

UCare's community benefit program balances our commitment to our members and to the broader community. By supporting and connecting with partners that share our mission, we compound our ability and actions to address health care problems with creative solutions – for all.
