



At Wellcare, we focus on whole person health care solutions. Each community is unique, so we partner with local groups and public agencies to build those solutions. We invest millions of dollars in programs that address social drivers of whole health and improve outcomes for all Californians.

HEALTH EQUITY

Physicians Seek Greater Health Equity Through Fellowship

In August, Health Net hosted the National Hispanic Health Foundation (NHHF) California Leadership Fellowship.

The NHHF Leadership Fellowship strives to advance the careers and leadership potential among skilled Hispanic physicians. At best, the doctors will have a **stronger voice for policy making**, and be able to hold **more executive positions** at the federal, state and local levels.

The Fellowship’s primary goal is to **improve the quality of health for all Americans**.

Health Net’s Leadership in Health Equity is Recognized Again

Health Net **retained** its Health Equity Accreditation Plus (HEA+) distinction from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA). We are **one of only three California health plans with an HEA+ distinction from NCQA**. Plus, out of more than 25 plans nationwide with HEA+, Health Net is the **only plan** that holds the honor across:

- Medicaid
- Medicare
- Commercial
- Exchange

NCQA’s Health Equity Accreditation **awards** the **bedrock of health equity work** which includes:

- Growth of an inner culture that supports health equity work
- Data collection
- Language services
- Culturally sensitive provider networks
- Impactful ways to address disparities and social risks

The Health Equity Accreditation Plus (HEA+) program is a voluntary add-on option. It focuses on partnerships that help **ease social risks** and **address social needs**. Guidelines include:

- Data collection of:
 - Members’ social needs
 - Community risks
- Partnerships with community-based organizations
- Ideas that create chances to improve the social need referral process

[Learn more about NCQA and HEA+](#)

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Health Net Gains Improved Outcomes and Collaboration Through Engagement

Throughout this year, Health Net team members have participated in thought leadership events across the state and nation. The ideas, discussions about policy opportunities and challenges and lessons learned help make Californians healthier.

For example:

- **America’s Health Insurance Plans Project Link Social Determinants of Health Learning Collaborative (February):** Senior Director of System of Care Nancy Kalev took part.
- **California Primary Care Association Quality & Technology Conference (March):** Senior Director of Provider Performance & Analytics Fia Roberts presented encounter data to the Integrated Healthcare Association.
- **Coalition for Compassionate Care California (CCC) 2024 Summit (April):** Manager of Care Management Carole Nathanson filled in for Dr. Marv Gordon to discuss partnership with MedZed.
- **State of Reform Northern California Health Policy Conference (April):** Senior Director of System of Care Nancy Kalev spoke on a panel about children’s health and welfare.
- **Central Valley Health Network Roundtable (May):** Senior Manager of Medi-Cal Quality Improvement Shekinah Wright spoke on a panel about employee engagement.
- **Physicians for a Healthy California Health Equity Leadership Summit (July):** Medicare and Medi-Cal President Martha Santana-Chin spoke on a panel and Dr. Pooja Mittal gave a keynote.
- **California Association of Health Facilities Summer Conference (July):** Director of Population Health Strategy Ed Mariscal was on a panel about transitional care services and Enhanced Care Management (ECM) / Community Supports (CS) with the Partners in Care Foundation.
- **United Farm Workers Foundation Webinar (September):** A Health Net representative (Mildred Pena) spoke about Medi-Cal expansion in the farmworker community.
- **California Primary Care Association Annual Conference (October):** Medicare and Medi-Cal President Martha Santana-Chin spoke on an opening keynote session about expanding access to care.
- **California Association of Health Plans Annual Conference (October):** Medicare and Medi-Cal President Martha Santana-Chin spoke on a panel about Medi-Cal progress.
- **National Committee for Quality Assurance Health Innovation Summit (October):** Vice President/Medical Director Dr. Todd May spoke on a panel about data exchange and improving care quality.
- **California Public Employee Retirement System Meeting – Board Presentation (November):** Vice President/Medical Director Dr. Todd May spoke about Health Net’s partnership with Covered California on data exchange and quality improvements.

GRANTS

Health Net Grant for UC Davis Stem Cell Program to Improve Access to CAR T-Cell Therapy

Funding promotes local production of CAR T-cell immunotherapy for cancer patients

UC Davis Health’s Stem Cell Program has received a \$500,000 grant from California health insurer Health Net to improve cancer patients’ access to life-saving CAR T therapies and clinical trials. CAR (chimeric antigen receptor) T-cell therapy is a form of immunotherapy that reprograms the immune cells to better target diseases such as cancer.

“Our CAR T program makes this treatment affordable and accessible to patients in 33 nearby counties and people in the Bay Area. We are providing CAR T products for over half of the state!” said Professor Jan Nolta, director of the Stem Cell Program. Nolta also directs the Institute for Regenerative Cures and the UC Davis Gene Therapy Center.

“This Health Net grant is an excellent step forward for our CAR T program to help more cancer patients. It provides a budget to continue our movement toward affordability and access to patient care.”

The objectives of the new grant

The new grant will support clinical trials and the development of new and better CAR T-cell products at the Stem Cell Program’s Alpha Clinic. The objective is to advance the science of CAR T therapy and improve patient outcomes.

The grant will also support therapies that may treat more patients, especially those who are underinsured and underserved. It aims to reduce costs, boost accessibility and facilitate patient participation in clinical trials. The grant will help reduce barriers to accessing treatments by assisting with travel, accommodations and lab testing in or near patients’ homes.

"Health Net’s mission is to transform the health of the communities we serve, one person at a time," said Dr. Todd May, vice president and medical director at Health Net. "We are proud to support the UC Davis team’s pioneering and cutting-edge cancer research with this \$500,000 grant, and to support work that aims to create a more effective, accessible and affordable CAR T cancer treatment."

[Learn more about the grant](#)

COMMUNITY

Homes and Hope Achieved for the Homeless With “The Neighborhood Village”

No number of doctor visits will make you healthy if you don't have proper housing and healthy food.

That's why Health Net is a proud supporter of Salt + Light's The Neighborhood Village (TNV) in Tulare County, which celebrated its ribbon-cutting on September 26.

TNV brings 50 modular homes to neighborhoods to address chronic homelessness. And to provide relief for at-risk families through a peaceful setting that provides wraparound services and safety.

Dozens of other organizations that include local, county, state and federal government offices and advocates helped contribute to the effort. All were part of the team that has brought The Neighborhood Village to completion.

Health Net sponsors TNV’s Community Kitchen, which will:

- Educate TNV residents about healthy food with a training program
- Provide healthy meals to truly impact residents' overall health
- Prepare food for mobile outreach to support other unhoused people in Tulare County
- Offer income prospects for TNV residents

L.A. Family Housing Residents Receive Thanksgiving Meal Kits With Help From Health Net Donation

In November, Health Net donated tote bags and sanitary wipes to the Mitzvah Day for [Hamakom L.A.](#) – a Los Angeles (West Hills) area synagogue.

Temporary and permanent residents of L.A. Family Housing received a \$25 gift card to buy a turkey and fresh ingredients. They were also able to get Thanksgiving bags filled with Thanksgiving trimmings including:

- Canned veggies
- Stuffing and corn muffin mix
- Instant potatoes
- Cranberry sauce
- Gravy
- Sanitary wipes



Health Net’s Janine Angel, senior director, Medicare Strategic Business Operations & Compliance, CA Market at Hamakom L.A. with Thanksgiving gift bags for L.A. Family Housing residents.