

recommended that future work be carried out through a national advisory committee,⁵³ no such committee has been convened to date, although numerous public and private stakeholders remain interested in advancing the national LTSS agenda.^{54,55}

LOOKING AHEAD

Reforming the nation’s long-term services and supports system is likely to remain a topic of discussion in the coming decades as policymakers and other stakeholders consider options for meeting the growing need for community-based options and addressing the lack of long-term services and supports coverage options outside of Medicaid. Given the significant public investment in the delivery and financing of LTSS, policymakers and other stakeholders have a vested interest in exploring LTSS reform options. In the absence of other viable public or private options to finance current and future LTSS needs for people of all ages, Medicaid will continue to be the major financing and delivery system for institutional and community-based LTSS for millions of Americans. Looking ahead, addressing community-based provider and housing shortages and streamlining access to community-based care that supports functional independence and enhances quality of life will remain key objectives of states’ rebalancing efforts as the need for Medicaid HCBS continues to grow. Policymakers and other stakeholders also may focus on the status of Medicaid initiatives to rebalance LTSS in favor of HCBS, with the expiration of Balancing Incentive Program funds in 2015, and Money Follows the Person funds in 2016. As the general LTSS beneficiary population increases and becomes more diverse, state and federal governments and private stakeholders will be challenged to find innovative ways to coordinate, deliver, and finance high quality, person-centered LTSS in the most appropriate care setting that promotes health and well-being, respects beneficiary preferences and rights, and maximizes efficiency to manage cost growth.

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- ⁵⁵ In April 2014, the Bipartisan Policy Center issued a white paper on challenges in financing and delivering LTSS, launching its Long-Term Care Initiative. The Bipartisan Policy Center anticipates it will issue policy recommendations in late 2015 with the objective “to find a politically viable and fiscally sustainable path forward to improve the financing and delivery of LTSS for America’s aging population and working-age Americans with disabilities.” For more information, see “America’s Long-Term Care Crisis: BPC Launches Initiative to Find a Politically and Fiscally Viable Path Forward to Improve the Financing and Delivery of Long-Term Care,” Bipartisan Policy Center, accessed December 10, 2015, <http://bipartisanpolicy.org/press-release/americas-long-term-care-crisis-bpc-launches-initiative-find-politically/>.



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This publication (#8617-02) is available on the Kaiser Family Foundation's website at www.kff.org.

Filling the need for trusted information on national health issues, the Kaiser Family Foundation is a nonprofit organization based in Menlo Park, California.