



GEOProfile

The Maine Health Access Foundation's (MeHAF) mission is to promote affordable and timely access to comprehensive, quality health care, and improve the health of every Maine resident. With assets of \$100 million, MeHAF is the state's largest health care foundation and provides approximately \$5 million in grant and program funding annually. Since 2002, MeHAF has awarded more than \$36 million in grants and program support to 227 organizations across Maine.

After soliciting and getting feedback from their stakeholders that meeting the health needs of "the whole person" (both mind and body) should be a priority for the state of Maine's health care system, MeHAF launched a \$10 million initiative in 2006 to improve the integration and delivery of mental/behavioral and primary health care throughout the state. The initiative includes learning community activities, policy supports, and grants engaging a variety of settings and population groups and using varied integrated care models. While most of the grant sites integrate behavioral health into primary care settings, some grant projects integrate primary care into behavioral health sites or focus on systems transformation initiatives such as patient-centered medical home pilots.

To learn more about how the "integrated care" model contributes to improved health outcomes and patient- and family-centered care, the foundation began evaluating their initiative. The multi-year evaluation included a cross-site study of 43 clinical practice grantees in the state and is examining patient outcomes, level of integration, processes and a range of other data.

Within the first year of the evaluation, initial data suggest that MeHAF's integrated model initiative has already led to changes in practice, as well as changes in health policy that enhance the use of integrated care in the state.

MeHAF evaluations focus on effectively reaching its priority populations through its grantmaking, engaging with its grantees, and measuring the impact of individual projects as well as groups of grants from the Foundation.