

Your Source for State Health Policy Experts, Evidence, and Connections

Our Mission

The Milbank Memorial Fund is a foundation that works to improve population health and health equity by connecting state and local leaders with evidence and with each other.

Founded in 1905, the Fund advances its mission by:

- Informing, convening, and inspiring state and local health policymakers to enhance their effectiveness as population health and health equity leaders
- Supporting the development of state policies that strengthen primary care and improve health care affordability
- Publishing evidence-based policy reports and *The Milbank Quarterly*, an editorially independent, peer-reviewed journal of population health and health policy

Our Focus Areas

- **State health policy leadership.** The Fund, which has a long history of supporting state government leaders, hosts the Milbank State Leadership Network, a bipartisan group of state health policy leaders from both the executive and legislative branches, and two leadership development programs, the Milbank Fellows Program and the Emerging Leaders Program. We work with state leaders on current health policy issues like adapting to federal Medicaid and public health changes. We also produce publications and hold virtual events on topics such as depolarization, rural health, and maternal health. **Contact us for stories about the Rural Health Transformation Program or to get connected to state health policy leaders.**

Select Experts

Debra Lubar, PhD, President of the Milbank Memorial Fund, has more than 25 years of experience as a population health strategist, with expertise in policy innovation, operations, and emergency response. Prior to joining the Fund, Dr. Lubar served as the Chief Operating Officer for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Morgan McDonald, MD, National Director of Population Health for the Milbank Memorial Fund, oversees the organization's state leadership work. A Former Interim Health Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner for Population Health in the Tennessee Department of Health, Dr. McDonald has expertise in primary care, maternal and child health policy, and rural health.


- **Primary care transformation.** The Fund supports policymakers and other decision makers in strengthening the field of primary care by publishing the Health of U.S. Primary Care Scorecard, convening state leaders who are working toward increasing investment in primary care, and publishing on state strategies to strengthen access to primary care. **Contact us for stories on how to address the shrinking primary care workforce.**
- **Affordable health care.** The Fund helps support states that are advancing policy to make health care more affordable by improving health care cost transparency, health care market oversight, and health care price regulation. The Peterson-Milbank Program for Sustainable Health Care Costs offers direct technical assistance to individual states in analyzing and addressing the underlying drivers of health care cost growth, as well as opportunities for peer networking and the facilitation of cross-state projects on shared affordability priorities. **Contact us for stories about state legislation to control health care costs.**

The Milbank Quarterly

Continuously published since 1923, *The Milbank Quarterly* features peer-reviewed original research, policy review, and analysis from academics, clinicians, and policymakers. The in-depth, multidisciplinary approach of the journal permits contributors to fully explore the social origins of health in our society and to examine in detail the implications of different health policies.

Recent Publications

A Roadmap for Building and Implementing a Comprehensive State Graduate Medical Education Strategy: Actionable Steps to Align Investments with Workforce Needs



Issue Brief
April 2026

Milbank Memorial Fund
Using evidence to improve population health.

THE HEALTH OF US PRIMARY CARE: 2026 THEMATIC REPORT

Investing in Primary Care
The Missing Strategy in America's Fight Against Chronic Disease



BY YALDA JABBARPOUR, ANURADHA JETTY, HOON BYUN, ANAM SIDDIQI, AND JEONGYOUNG PARK, ROBERT GRAHAM CENTER, AND CHRISTOPHER KOLLER

THE PHYSICIANS FOUNDATION
Empowering Physicians
Improving Healthcare

Milbank Memorial Fund
Using evidence to improve population health.

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