



WORKING TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF OLDER AMERICANS

The John A. Hartford Foundation

ABOUT THE JOHN A. HARTFORD FOUNDATION

The John A. Hartford Foundation, based in New York City, is a private, nonpartisan philanthropy working to improve the health of older Americans. In 2014, the John A. Hartford Foundation paid out \$18.9 million on a total of 60 active grants and committed \$10.0 million to 13 new grants projects, all focused on the care of older adults.

THE NEED FOR BETTER GERIATRIC CARE

America is aging fast. 10,000 Boomers are turning 65 every day, and the largest-ever generation of older adults is living and working longer, redefining aging, and continuing to contribute to their families and communities.

High-quality health care is essential to make this possible. It's not that older adults need more health care; they need better care and the right kind of care — care that meets their unique health and social needs.

Older adults are some of the highest users of health care: they constitute 43 percent of hospital occupancy and make 25 to 35 percent of primary care visits. Yet they receive only 30 percent of guideline-level care for common geriatric syndromes such as dementia, incontinence, and falls. Older adults are often not connected to the right social supports and services, and they face high rates of avoidable injury and harm from medication errors, unnecessary or inappropriate treatments, and a lack of coordination among health care providers.



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OUR APPROACH

The Foundation believes geriatrics expertise can transform health care and improve outcomes for older adults in a financially sustainable way. Under its new strategic plan, the Foundation focuses its grantmaking in five areas:

- 1 Interprofessional Leadership in Action**, empowering health care professionals, individually and collectively, to use their geriatrics expertise and change how health care is delivered to our aging society.
- 2 Linking Education and Practice**, training current practitioners in today's best care, building into education the skills needed for tomorrow's care.
- 3 Developing and Disseminating Models of Care**, supporting evidence-based innovations to improve health outcomes for older adults while lowering costs.
- 4 Tools and Measures for Quality Care**, promoting measures, standards, and health information technology that support appropriate care for older adults, particularly those with multiple chronic conditions and complex medical and social needs.
- 5 Public Policy & Communications**, advancing the Foundation's nonpartisan mission and the work of grantees through communications, advocacy, and research that inform the development of effective health and aging policies.

OUR IMPACT

Scholarship, Research, and Professional Education

Under its previous strategic plan, the Foundation championed geriatrics research and education to prepare a better health professional workforce for the aging population. Over three decades, this program supported:

- More than 3,000 scholars in medicine, nursing, and social work who have developed a robust knowledge base and trained hundreds of thousands of students.
- The development of basic geriatrics competency standards that have been embedded into training curricula across the country.



Transforming Care Delivery

The Foundation has also spearheaded the development and spread of evidence-based, cost-effective geriatric care models, work which continues under the new strategic plan, including:

- Care Transitions Program, which reduces likelihood of avoidable hospital readmissions by half and is in use in 925 organizations across 44 states.
- IMPACT Evidence-based Depression Care, which doubles the effectiveness of standard depression treatment in primary care. More than 6,000 practitioners trained and implementation supported in about 1,000 clinics nationwide.
- Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC), which helps increase the availability of quality palliative care services for people facing serious, complex illness to 90 percent of large hospitals.
- NICHE (Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders), with a network of more than 620 hospitals and healthcare facilities working to improve the care of older adults.

Informing the Health Care Dialogue

The Foundation's blog, *Health AGenda* (jhartfound.org/blog), provides a respected and influential forum for analyzing events and stimulating debate on a host of health and aging issues.

OUR HISTORY

The Foundation was established by John A. Hartford in 1929 and endowed with funds from his estate and that of his brother, George L. Hartford. Both were former chief executives and family owners of the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company (A&P). The John A. Hartford Foundation is America's leading philanthropy with a sustained interest in aging and health.



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