

Aging with Disability Conference

ASPE Perspective: Linking Research and Policy

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation

ASPE (Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation)

- Advises the Secretary on policy
 - “Policy think tank” for the Secretary
 - Staff office, not an operating division
 - That is, does not run programs
- Links to all programs of HHS
 - Health Policy
 - Disability, Aging, and Long-Term Care Policy
 - Human Services Policy
 - Science and Data Policy



Office of Disability, Aging, and LTC Policy

- Unique in its focus on a population, not a program
 - Cuts across policies, programs
 - Person-centered among those with any disability
 - Focus on population with disabilities of all types
 - Cognitive, behavioral health, physical, intellectual
- Works with operating divisions
 - Especially, CMS, ACL, SAMSHA, NIH, AHRQ
- Type of work varies widely



DALTCP activities range widely

- Fast turn around review: regulations, testimony, etc.
 - Review of regulations for new HCBS programs under ACA
- Short run policy and data analyses
 - Estimate size of employed population with disabilities under age 65
- Lead special initiatives; convene experts, stakeholders
 - Lead development of National Alzheimer's Plan
- Funds 1-2 year projects
 - Assess evidence on culture change and develop policy agenda
- Funds long term projects—social experiments, surveys
 - Cash and Counseling Experiment
 - Residential Care Survey



How is DALTCP agenda set?

- Priorities of political leadership
- Congressionally-mandated studies
- Staff-initiated projects based on expertise on program policy issues; future evidence needed
- Operating divisions' request to conduct study
- Partnerships with foundations and other departments



DAITCP contracts vs. typical grant

- Directed project, not investigator-initiated
- Policy significance, not scientific significance
- Draw heavily on grant research, data, expertise
 - NIA: HRS used to build simulation models
 - NIA: Informal caregiver supplement to NHATS
 - NIDRR: Consulted experts in study of disability measures in national surveys



Criteria for assessing projects

- Is it policy relevant? What is the policy lever?
- Who wants it? How will they use it?
- What is the product?
- Is anyone doing this already?
- Do we have an interested partner?
- What is ASPE's value-added?

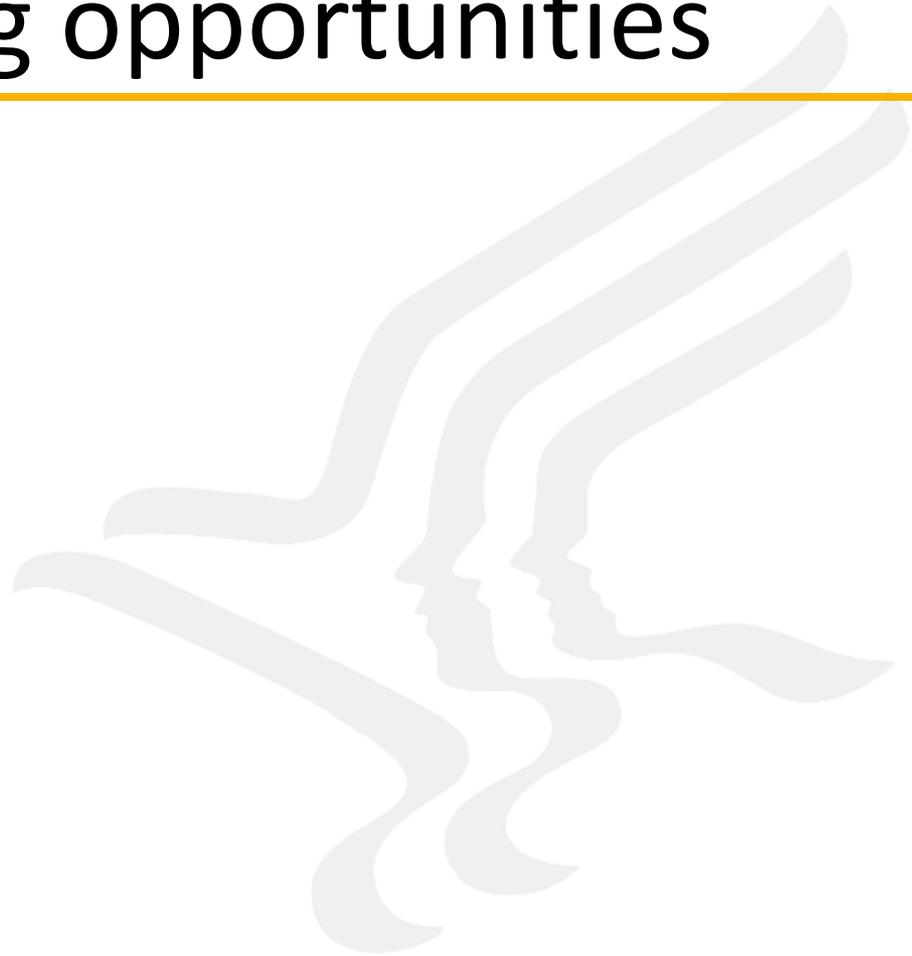


Aging with disability at DALTCP

- No aging with disability projects as defined here
- Address disability-related policy **across all ages**
 - Residential care survey
- People with disability age **across programs**
 - Transition from private insurance to Medicare
- Age defines eligibility for **different programs**
 - HCBS waiver programs



Actual funding opportunities



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Previous DALTCP Research

- **Community Living**

- Evaluation of a Demonstration of Housing with Services to Enhance Aging in Place for Older Adults

- **Nursing Home Quality**

- Culture Change in Nursing Homes

- **Long-Term Care Service Use and Financing**

- Development of a Survey on Long-Term Care Awareness and Planning

- **ACA and CLASS Implementation**

- Modeling CLASS Using Avalere Health's Long-Term Care Policy Simulator



Previous DALTCP Research (cont.)

- **Active Aging and Health Promotion**
 - Elderly Falls Prevention Demonstration
- **Long-Term Care Workforce**
 - Analysis of the National Home Health Aide Survey
- **Mental Health Policy**
 - Development of Quality Measures for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- **Health Information and Other Technology**
 - Quality and Continuity of Care Impacts in Integrated Delivery Systems that Use Health IT/EHRs



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