



## *Project Access: Children and Youth with Epilepsy*

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Project Access is a national initiative to improve access to coordinated, comprehensive care for children and youth with epilepsy in medically underserved and rural areas. Since its inception in 2004, Project Access, now in its third phase, seeks to assure access to an integrated system of health and related services by establishing State teams that work toward improved systems of care. State Teams collaborate with Epilepsy Foundation affiliates to develop comprehensive models of care and to eradicate stigma by increasing public awareness and understanding of the disorder.

Components included in the initiative are:

- Statewide demonstration grants to foster innovative strategies to support children and families with epilepsy and address the unique needs of their targeted communities
- The development of a national continuous quality-improvement strategy using a learning collaborative model to address needs within the health care system
- A national educational and awareness program led by the Epilepsy Foundation

### *Funding*

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In FY 2010, HRSA awarded \$1,057,409 to the Epilepsy Foundation to support a National Center of Excellence. An additional \$2,982,170 was awarded to grantees to support community-based program implementation.

### *Participants*

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Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan  
Michigan Department of Community Health  
Epilepsy Foundation Western/Central Pennsylvania  
Cleveland Clinic  
University of Nebraska Medical Center Munroe-Meyer Institute  
Epilepsy Foundation of Florida, Inc.  
Epilepsy Foundation- National Office  
New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services

### *Highlights*

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- **Epilepsy Foundation Western/Central Pennsylvania** is working to create a system of care that will result in replicable co-management practice guidelines and a new process of identifying early cognitive effects of seizures and antiepileptic medication.
- **University of Nebraska Medical Center Munroe-Meyer Institute** is working to improve access to specialized epilepsy services while expanding use of telehealth technologies to improve health care in rural, underserved areas.
- **New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services** is integrating into the current system of care a focus on creating an alliance between coordination of care efforts including family/youth involvement in health care design statewide.
- **Michigan Department of Community Health** has the goal of assuring the best quality of health services are made available to children and youth with epilepsy in medically underserved and rural areas using telehealth and the increased application of medical home care coordination.

More information: <http://www.epilepsyfoundation.org/ncpa/>