

## New funding

### Training scientists as partners in transforming primary care

Newly funded E-STAR center will elevate equity and community in learning health system research



With a 5-year, \$5 million grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, a team led by the ACT Center will help build the next generation of learning health system (LHS) scientists with **expertise in transforming primary care**. The new Washington LHS E-STAR Center focuses on developing sustainable and long-term **partnerships spanning research and primary care, with emphasis on community health centers** that serve diverse populations often not reached by these types of programs.

[Read more](#)

## Project highlights

### When is Paxlovid right for COVID-19 treatment?

New risk model uses advanced analytics to guide informed treatment decisions at Kaiser Permanente Washington



Even if you aren't familiar with the latest prescription treatments for COVID-19, the name "Paxlovid" probably rings a bell. How do health care organizations, care teams, and individual patients decide when Paxlovid is the right choice for COVID-19 treatment — and ensure that it's prescribed to those who are most likely to benefit? Thanks to a **new predictive risk model** developed by the ACT Center, care teams and patients at Kaiser Permanente Washington can now use **real-time data on individual risk factors to help guide their decision-making**.

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## What works to meet complex needs in diabetes care?

An ACT Center partnership is helping a nonprofit engage patients and provide comprehensive care



The ACT Center is working with Vayu Health, a nonprofit startup in California, to design a program to support people who have insurance through Medicaid managed care plans and are living with diabetes that's not well controlled. The Vayu program aims to help these patients achieve better diabetes control by providing whole-person care that addresses their medical, behavioral, and social needs. ACT Center Collaborative Scientist **Kelsey Stefanik-Guizlo** is playing a lead role in supporting the Vayu team as they implement and evaluate their program. She recently shared her thoughts on 2 early papers from the project — **results from the initial pilot** and a **case study of the program implementation**— and talked about what's coming next as the program expands.

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## Featured publication

Published recently in *The Permanente Journal*, this ACT Center paper describes the feasibility and acceptability of implementing an **Empathic Inquiry-informed approach to social needs screening** in 10 federally qualified health centers. Empathic Inquiry is a patient-centered approach to asking about patients' social needs that incorporates motivational interviewing and trauma-informed care techniques to build trust and help patients feel safe with their care teams.

[View the paper online](#): Assessing the Feasibility of an Empathic Inquiry Approach to Social Needs Screening in 10 Federally Qualified Health Centers. Singer AR, Coleman KF, Mahmud A, Holden E, Stefanik-Guizlo K. October 2023. doi.org/10.7812/TPP/22.178.

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*We at the Center for Accelerating Care Transformation would like to acknowledge that we are on the ancestral lands and traditional territories of the Puget Sound Coast Salish People.*

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