



House Health & Government Operations Committee

February 19, 2025

House Bill 1104

**Maryland Department of Health - AHEAD Model Implementation -
Electronic Health Care Transactions and
Population Health Improvement Fund
Support**

NCADD Maryland supports House Bill 1104. Maryland will be one of the first states to embark on a new state total cost of care model, the States Advancing All-Payer Health Equity Approaches and Development (AHEAD) Model. Under this model, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services provide funding to support participating states through various components that aim to increase investment in primary care, provide financial stability for hospitals, and support beneficiary connection to community resources. House Bill 1104 is necessary for proper AHEAD Model implementation.

NCADD-Maryland supports the goals of the AHEAD Model. Addressing social determinants of health are crucial to preventing and treating substance use disorders. Increasing access to affordable housing, job training, and quality education help reduce negative impacts on mental health and the risk of substance use disorders. This in turn helps reduce reliance on emergency room visits and hospital admissions.

We urge a favorable report on House Bill 1104.