

State Approaches to Serving Children and Youth with Chronic and Complex Needs through the Paraprofessional Workforce



NATIONAL ACADEMY
FOR STATE HEALTH POLICY



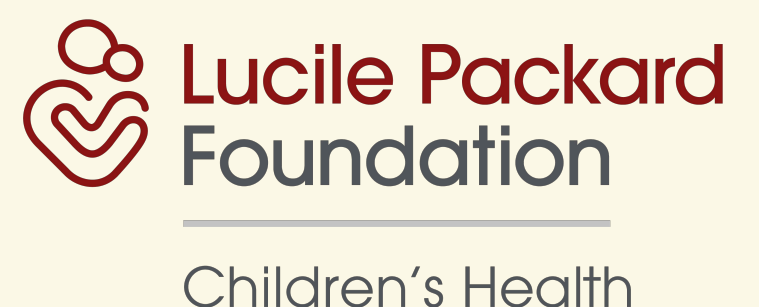
Lucile Packard
Foundation

Children's Health



States are expanding and formalizing the **community-based paraprofessional workforce**, including community health workers, peer, care team extenders, and other positions, to meet the **multi-system needs** of children and youth with chronic and complex conditions.

Read the full brief
at [NASHP.org](https://www.nashp.org)

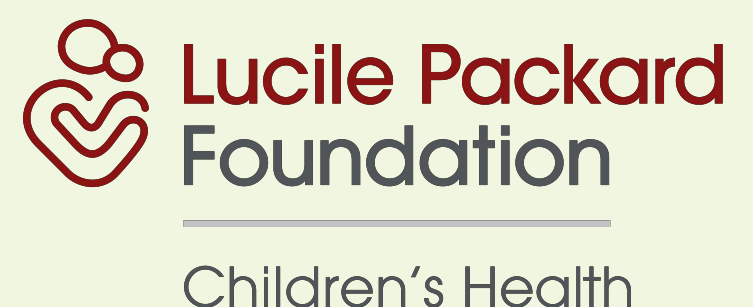




Paraprofessionals often **leverage their lived experience** to ensure access to the following services, which improve quality of care for families and can **reduce costs and support efficiencies** for the health system:

- Health and social service navigation
- Care coordination
- Health education and promotion
- Screening and assessment
- Patient advocacy

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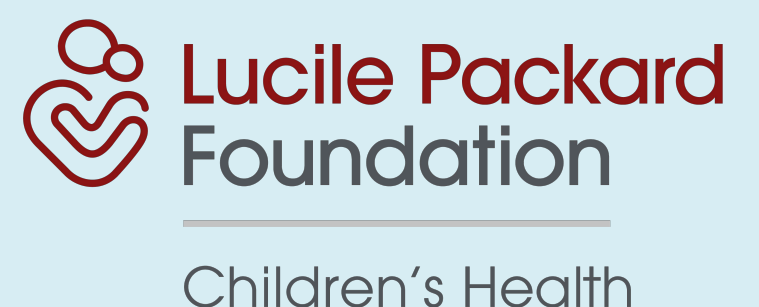




Georgia

Georgia's certified peer specialist program includes the **Certified Peer Specialist – Youth** position, in which young adults ages 18 to 26 with lived experience support and empower youth with behavioral health conditions to thrive in their home, school, and community. **Unique services include** exploration of recovery goals, self-advocacy opportunities, support with communication among the family and multi-disciplinary care teams.

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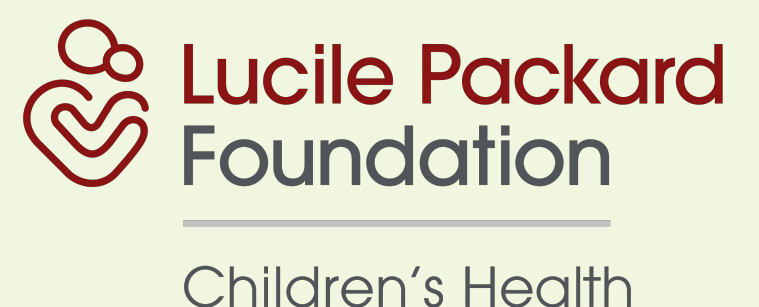




North Carolina

North Carolina Medicaid has designed a care manager extender role to help deliver integrated, multi-disciplinary care in the state's Tailored Plans for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities, behavioral health conditions, or traumatic brain injuries. These paraprofessionals leverage lived experience with or caring for individuals with similar needs to deliver **Tailored Care Management** across child-serving systems and providers.

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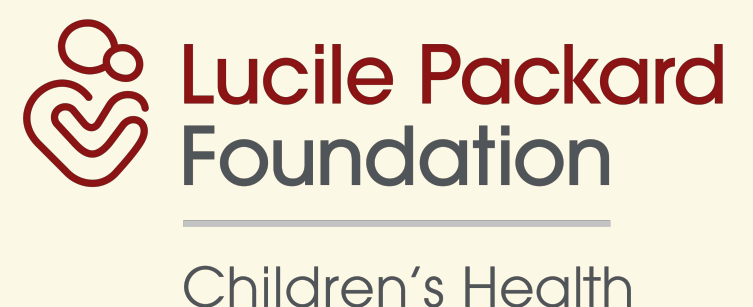




Rhode Island

Rhode Island has adopted robust policies and standards for community health workers (CHWs). The state partners with the Rhode Island Parent Information Network to train and employ CHWs to system navigation, advocacy assistance, and training and education to families of children and youth with chronic and complex needs.

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Read more at [NASHP.org](https://www.nashp.org) to learn about three state approaches to serve children and youth with chronic and complex needs through the paraprofessional workforce.



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