

ASHA (State-Based) Advocacy Networks

Network Name	State Education Advocacy Leaders (SEALs)	State Medicare Administrative Contractor (SMAC) Network	State Advocates for Reimbursement (STAR)
Charge	Enhance and perpetuate the advocacy, leadership and clinical management skills of school-based ASHA members at the state and local levels to influence administrative and public policy decisions that affect the delivery of speech-language pathology and audiology services in school settings.	Enhance and perpetuate the advocacy, leadership and communication of ASHA members at the state level to influence administrative and public policy decisions that impact the Medicare coverage and reimbursement of speech-language pathology services and audiology services. Review and provide input/comments to LCDs.	Lead advocacy efforts and create coverage and reimbursement strategies with state associations. STAR Network members link their states to ASHA in advocacy with legislators, state insurance commissioners, health insurance executives, unions, and employers who provide employees with private health insurance plans.
Staff Coordinator	Eileen Crowe	Mark Kander	Laurie Alban Havens and Neela Swanson
Number of States	50 + District of Columbia	32	50 + District of Columbia
Number of Participants	50 (Appointed by state associations)	37 (Appointed by state associations)	43 (Appointed by state associations)
Origin	March, 1999 1999 Priority Issue on Schools	January, 2000 2000 Priority Issue on Advocacy	2003 Focused Initiative on Reimbursement
Budgeted Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • private listserv/forum • funds for SEALs Champion (per the 2011 Strategic Pathway) • conference calls and webinars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • private listserv/forum • monthly conference calls (funded by Strategic Pathway) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • private listserv/forum • monthly conference calls (funded by Strategic Pathway) • advocacy and negotiation seminars for state association meetings • grants to state associations for private health plan coverage and reimbursement advocacy activities (funded by Strategic Pathway)