

What is Culture Change?

Culture change is a movement that seeks to transform nursing homes from large institutional settings based upon a hierarchical, medical model to ones that center on the quality of life and the ability to make individual choices in a homelike environment.

Is Culture Change effective?

Yes! While there is no single one-size fits all culture change model, research shows that different culture change strategies, when implemented effectively, can lead to significant improvements in resident outcomes.

Summary

This brief provides information on culture change principles, foundations, models, costs, implementation, policy, and recommendations. Culture change strategies offer a model of care that emphasizes resident choice, a home-like environment, close relationships, empowered staff, collaborative decision-making, and social engagement. Culture change will require public investment and support, and it's critical that any funding toward culture change is allocated *only* to providers who are making meaningful, systemic, and lasting improvements.

U.S. nursing home residents, their families, and the taxpaying public are increasingly desperate for reform in long-term care. We hope that this brief will serve as a guide to foster support for *true* culture change in nursing homes.

