



National Governors Association Center for Best Practices
Request for Applications
Improving Capacity for Health Care Service Delivery Meeting

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- RFA Release Date:** Thursday March 14, 2019
- Optional Bidders' Calls:** March 20, 2019, 3:30 pm – 4:00 pm ET
Dial-in: 888-858-6021; Passcode 202-624-5395#
- March 26, 2019, 4:00 pm – 4:30 pm ET
Dial-in: 888-858-6021; Passcode 202-624-5395
- Applications Due:** Thursday, April 4, 5:00 pm ET
- Selection Announcement:** Monday, April 15, 2019
- Meeting Date & Location:** June 5 – 6, 2019 in Indianapolis, Indiana
- Programming begins at 8:00 am on Wednesday, June 5
and concludes by 1:30 pm on Thursday, June 6.
- Eligibility:** States, commonwealths, and territories (“states”)
- NGA Contact(s):** Katie Gaul, Senior Program Analyst
KGaul@nga.org or 202-624-5967

Background

States are at the forefront of promoting innovative strategies to address health care workforce issues, health systems coordination, and access to care. Due to competing priorities, complex infrastructure, and geographic disparities, states are seeking innovative solutions to ensure they have an adequate health care workforce, coordination of service delivery across disciplines, data to inform policy, and technology to enhance reach and coordination of the workforce.

Purpose

The NGA Center for Best Practices is working in partnership with the National Conference of State Legislatures and National Academy for State Health Policy to plan a multi-state meeting with key state health policy leaders. The NGA Center invites states to nominate a team of individuals from across health-related executive branch agencies and key partner organizations to participate in the meeting, which will engage state leaders in dialogue about how to effectively build and maintain health care workforce capacity to ensure access to care for residents. The event will include a full day and a half of sessions with national and state experts who will share their innovative solutions to address complex health care service delivery capacity issues.



Participants will return to their home states with new connections within and across states and actionable insights about how they can assess their existing landscape and consider new policy solutions.

Travel costs will be covered for participants selected through this RFA. Legislative staff will be invited to attend by the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Meeting Description

At this meeting, states will have the opportunity to learn about evidence-based and promising practices that increase access to high quality and cost-effective care throughout the states. Focus areas for sessions include:

- Health workforce data collection and analysis
- Access to care in rural communities
- Graduate medical education (GME), health workforce training, and recruitment and retention
- Addressing shortages through health workforce innovations
- Long-term services and supports workforce
- Telehealth/teleprescribing
- Mobile integrated health
- Strategies for improving whole person care
- Building capacity in the substance use disorder workforce
- The continuum of crisis response
- Home visiting
- Maternal mortality and morbidity
- Neonatal abstinence syndrome
- Access to oral health for rural and underserved populations

More detailed session descriptions are available at the end of this document.

Application Content

To apply, states must submit a brief letter of interest (no more than 1 - 2 pages) signed by the governor discussing the major issues of interest to the state related to the topics that will be addressed at the meeting. In addition, the letter should include the names, titles, and contact information of individuals nominated to attend the meeting. Please list up to five individuals in priority order. All individuals listed on the application should be aware that their name has been submitted for consideration. Examples of individuals the state may consider sending include, but are not limited to representatives from the:

- Office of Primary Care/Primary Care Association
- Office of Rural Health/Rural Health Association
- Office of Behavioral Health
- Medicaid Program
- State Dental Office
- Maternal and Child Health program
- EMS Office
- Partner university

The letter should include a primary point of contact with name, title, phone number, and email address (this person does not have to be a nominee but should be able to help with coordination).



Submission Information

All applications must be received by **5:00 pm ET on Thursday, April 4, 2019**. Applications must be submitted through the governor's office to Katie Gaul at kgaul@nga.org. Following submission, each state's point of contact will receive a confirmation email from the NGA Center verifying receipt of your application. Questions may be directed to Katie Gaul at kgaul@nga.org or 202-624-5967.

Selection Information

Applicants will be notified regarding selection to participate no later than **5:00 p.m. ET on Monday, April 15, 2019**. The number of states and participants selected will depend upon the number of applications received.

This opportunity is made possible through a cooperative agreement with the Health Resources and Services Administration.

This request for application (RFA) is not binding on the NGA Center for Best Practices, nor does it constitute a contractual offer. Without limiting the foregoing, the NGA Center reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to reject any or all applications; to modify, supplement, or cancel the RFA; to waive any deviation from the RFA; to negotiate regarding any proposal; and to negotiate final terms and conditions that may differ from those stated in the RFA. Under no circumstances shall NGA be liable for any costs incurred by any person in connection with the preparation and submission of a response to this RFA.



Session Descriptions

Health Workforce Data Collection and Analysis to Support State Health Policy: Data can serve as a powerful lever to help inform policy direction regarding priorities to ensure the health care workforce can meet demand for care. Using state examples, participants will learn about strategies for collecting state health workforce data, analyses to understand gaps, and how data can be communicated and disseminated to help policymakers make decisions and drive change.

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS): When a child is exposed to opioids or other drugs in utero, the newborn may develop a drug dependency termed neonatal abstinence syndrome. This workshop will discuss promising practices in prevention and treatment for NAS and opioid use disorder (OUD). It will highlight successful outcomes of the MOMS program in Ohio and other state-level strategies. Participants will also hear an on-the-ground perspective from a peer support specialist who works with pregnant and parenting women.

Access to Care in Rural Areas: Rural populations face many challenges in accessing quality health care. This session will focus on key rural health issues, including the role of family physicians, strategies for communities grappling with hospital closures and telehealth as a mechanism to increase reach.

Meeting the Needs of Individuals Receiving Long-Term Care Services: With a growing number of children and adults requiring long-term services, there is a parallel need for a robust workforce. This session will focus on strategies to recruit and retain professional caregivers, ways to support family caregivers, and ways to increase supports for older adults to stay at home.

Increasing Access through Training, Recruitment and Retention: This session will provide examples of state-based supports to increase the supply of rural providers through health workforce training, recruitment and retention efforts, including Medicaid support for graduate medical education and other health professional training, and tools for identifying areas for recruitment efforts.

Patient Engagement Outside of Traditional Health Care Settings: The EMS system and pharmacy supports can be leveraged to increase coordination and understanding of patient's needs, reduce repeat hospitalizations, and implement strategies to curb costs. Participants will come out of the session with key policy strategies to increase patients reach and navigation to appropriate services.

Access to Oral Health for Rural and Underserved Populations: States are working to expand access to oral health through strategies such as increasing Medicaid coverage, addressing scope of practice laws, teledentistry, care integration, and practice support to improve efficiencies for practices in areas where providers are difficult to recruit. Speakers in this session will highlight promising practices that states can consider implementing to increase access to oral health care for their rural and underserved residents.



Reducing Maternal Morbidity and Mortality: More women in the United States are dying as a result of pregnancy-related complications than in any other developed country. With a specific focus on access to appropriate care in rural areas, panelists will discuss maternal levels of care and perinatal regionalization as two strategies to improve maternal outcomes and reduce inequities.

Building Effective Systems of Care for Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Populations
This session will help states identify and understand effective, evidence-based prenatal to age three policies, and best practices in coordinating and aligning programs to build a comprehensive system of care for MCH populations.

Improving Access to Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment Through Workforce Capacity Building: People with substance use disorders face challenges in accessing SUD treatment, particularly in rural areas. Major rate limiters include a significant shortage in this workforce – which impedes access to any care at all – and significant gaps in access to best practice interventions where the workforce does exist. This session will address systems-level initiatives to build capacity such as leveraging Medicaid delivery and payment approaches to incentivize best practices and to build out the workforce with unlicensed and peer professionals, using teleprescribing for medication assisted treatment (MAT) and working across sectors to build a continuum of services and supports for people involved with the criminal justice system with SUD.

State and Community Investment in the Continuum of Crisis Response: Historically, responding to people in behavioral health crisis has involved transportation to emergency departments or jail when community-based interventions are more effective and desirable. Recognizing that more cost-effective and person-centered approaches can be employed, states and communities are transforming their crisis response systems to align with best practices along a continuum of care: prevention/early intervention – crisis response – relapse prevention. This session will highlight some state and local-level innovations in building out a robust continuum of crisis response that is community-based and reduces unnecessary reliance in acute care or criminal justice settings.

Meaningful Care Coordination for Behavioral Health Needs: This session will focus on unique challenges and strategies to address capacity in the behavioral health care system, including gaps in access to high quality care, evidence-based care coordination models matched to severity of illness, using data to identify and support individuals with complex care needs and integration of care across physical and behavioral health.

Behavioral Health Innovations in Rural America: This session will provide examples of steps states are taking to build the behavioral health workforce needed in rural areas through pipeline and training programs, sustainable public-private partnerships and remote training, supervision and consultation through telehealth models.