

Primary Care Workforce Resources

The current shortage of primary care professionals is of great cause for concern among policymakers, health care providers, and the general public. As demand for primary care continues to increase, the supply of primary care professionals is declining, leading to access problems for many individuals seeking primary care.

In July 2009, the National Academy for State Health Policy co-hosted the primary care forum, ***Strengthening the Health Care Safety Net Workforce through Interagency Cooperation, Planning, and Policy*** in Philadelphia, PA with the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL), the Association for State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), and the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Six state teams from Colorado, Idaho, Maine, Missouri, Mississippi, and Ohio consisting of public health leaders, policymakers, and program experts worked jointly to develop state strategies to improve recruitment and retention of the primary care workforce in their state. Federal and state experts presented on topics such as pipeline programs, loan repayment and financial incentives, data collection, and diversity in the workforce. Throughout the meeting, experts individually worked with the teams on their strategies and plans. One outcome of the forum resulted in each team having developed a specific state action plan.

The agenda and PowerPoint presentations from this forum are available on the [NCSL website](#). Please contact Liz Osius (eosius@nashp.org) or Melissa Hansen (melissa.hansen@ncsl.org) for more information.

For further information on Primary Care Workforce issues, please see the following resources:

- The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) “**Workforce and Leadership Development**” program at www.astho.org
- **Access Transformed: Building a Primary Care Workforce for the 21st Century**
National Association of Community Health Centers, The George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services, and the Robert Graham Center, *Access Transformed: Building a Primary Care Workforce for the 21st Century* (Washington, DC: NACHC, August 2008)
This report lays out the need for a larger primary care workforce in underserved areas and ways in which that goal can be met. www.nachc.com

The **Health Workforce Information Center (HWIC)** provides free access to resources on the nation's health workforce. Resources available through HWIC's Web site will help health providers, educators, researchers and policymakers develop strategies to meet future workforce demands. HWIC is operated by the Center for Rural Health at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences and funded by the Bureau of Health Professions, Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. www.healthworkforceinfo.org