REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

HealthHIV and National Academy for State Health Policy
Policy Learning Series for Medicaid and Public Health Officials:
Leveraging PrEP Programs to End New Cases of HIV

HealthHIV and the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) are excited to announce a new health policy learning series for teams of state Medicaid and public health officials. This opportunity will provide participants with practical strategies related to health policy and financing for starting or expanding Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) programs. The learning series is designed to bring together teams of state and local officials to identify, troubleshoot, and overcome PrEP implementation barriers by facilitating connections between national leaders, subject matter experts, and PrEP program implementers to share and disseminate lessons learned and best practices.

Selected teams will be given the opportunity to:

- access exclusive technical assistance opportunities to engage with leading policymakers and program staff during a highly-interactive 3-part webinar series;
- engage with peer organizations from different states/jurisdictions who have developed innovative strategies for PrEP program implementation;
- engage with HealthHIV/NASHP staff and one another on an ongoing basis using a web-based collaborative platform to facilitate sharing of implementation tools and resources; and
- request individualized technical assistance through HealthHIV's Three D HIV Prevention Program following the webinar series.

Over the course of three months, the learning series will initiate momentum to assist Medicaid and public health officials reach consensus on the development of critical PrEP programmatic decisions that include: financing and sustainability, strategic planning/developing guidelines, and workforce training. Specific topics to be addressed in the learning series will include, but are not limited to:

- coordinated strategic planning and policy development, including establishing, maintaining and strengthening relationships between Medicaid and public health agencies;
- workforce training for primary care physicians and other providers; and
- financing and reimbursement through Medicaid, manufacturer patient assistance programs, and PrEP assistance programs that leverage HIV Uninsured Care Programs (HUCP), AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAP), and ADAP Plus (primary care).
Through this request for applications (RFA), we will select teams from up to ten jurisdictions to join the learning series. Team will consist of at least two core team members representing the state’s Medicaid and public health agencies. Applicants are welcome to identify additional state and local officials to participate as part of their teams, including a jurisdictional public health team lead, if appropriate. We are seeking applications from jurisdictions at all levels of PrEP program implementation. However, successful applicants will have either demonstrated interest in launching a PrEP program or have already implemented a PrEP program and are looking to improve the coordination between their Medicaid agency and state/local public health departments.

**Background**

Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis, otherwise known as PrEP, is a cornerstone in the effort to reduce new HIV infections. PrEP is a comprehensive HIV intervention that combines medication, HIV testing, and counseling to help prevent HIV-negative individuals who are at high-risk for HIV infection from contracting the virus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have estimated that approximately 1.2 million individuals in the United States have a substantial risk of contracting HIV and could benefit from PrEP as an HIV prevention strategy.\(^1\) Currently, emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate is the only medication approved for PrEP; when taken as directed, the medication is safe and highly effective when used in conjunction with other prevention strategies such as condom use.\(^2\)

Strong collaboration between Medicaid and public health officials is crucial to the development and implementation of a successful PrEP program. Public health officials have key roles in HIV prevention planning efforts, including important data collection and analytics roles that can be leveraged to help identify individuals who may benefit from PrEP.\(^3\) Given local health departments’ role as a bridge between the community and providers, this role can be further leveraged to advance provider engagement and education about the role of PrEP and related testing and counseling services.

Policymakers and providers looking to implement PrEP programs may face a range of implementation challenges. For example, a nationwide survey of health departments conducted in 2014 identified inadequate funding and reimbursement mechanisms as a particularly significant barrier for implementing PrEP programs.\(^4\) Other challenges may include: limited community outreach and education for individuals at high-risk for HIV infection who may benefit from PrEP; lack of provider engagement or capacity to provide comprehensive PrEP services; and administrative issues navigating insurance coverage, patient assistance programs, and billing. Increased collaboration between Medicaid and state/local health departments can facilitate opportunities to overcome financial, regulatory, and administrative challenges to implementation.

---


\(^2\) Ibid.


What’s in it for Participating Jurisdictions?

In an effort to further the development and implementation of PrEP programs and policies, selected teams will be given the opportunity to:

- access exclusive technical assistance opportunities to engage with leading policymakers and program staff during a highly-interactive 3-part webinar series;
- engage with peer organizations from different states/jurisdictions who have developed innovative strategies for PrEP program implementation;
- engage with HealthHIV/NASHP staff and one another on an ongoing basis using a web-based collaborative platform to facilitate sharing of implementation tools and resources; and
- request individualized technical assistance through HealthHIV’s Three D HIV Prevention Program following the webinar series.

Jurisdiction Selection Criteria

NASHP and HealthHIV staff will review all applications. Applications will be evaluated on the extent to which they demonstrate the following criteria. Note that all three criteria will be weighted equally.

1. Buy-In: Strong applications will include leadership from Medicaid and public health agencies; if leadership is not directly participating in the learning series, applicants should demonstrate that leadership supports your participation in the learning series.
2. Commitment: Selected teams will show a commitment to developing, implementing or advancing a PrEP program, focusing on highly-impacted jurisdictions, in their state.
3. Potential Impact: Strong candidate states will explain how participation in this learning collaborative will improve or strengthen their PrEP initiative(s).

We are also seeking diversity among selected states. We hope to include states from different regions of the country that are using diverse strategies for the development or implementation of their PrEP programs or models.

Expectations of Participation

As a condition of participation, each state team must commit to furthering its own initiative and helping us to advance the field of HIV prevention more broadly. Specific expectations of participation follow.

- Maintain a core team of at least two members (representing the state Medicaid and public health agencies); participants should have decision-making authority or participate on senior leaderships’ behalf.
- Participate in all monthly learning series webinars as planned by HealthHIV and NASHP. We understand that it may be unavoidable for conflicting commitments to arise; in these cases, the other team members will be expected to participate on behalf of the full team.
• **Develop a shared work plan** that identifies specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) objectives for implementing or strengthening programs and policies that increase access to PrEP services. The work plan will be designed to promote ongoing collaboration after the learning series concludes through identification of key strategies, next steps, responsible parties, and timelines. Work plan will be submitted with final survey at the end of the learning series.

• **Complete a brief survey at the end of the learning series** to identify key takeaways and inform the development of future learning series.

**Application Instructions**

The application is available below, beginning on page 6. We encourage you to complete the application online using SurveyMonkey [here](#), although we will also consider applications submitted via e-mail. If you prefer to email your application, submit your application (Word or PDF files only) to John Tranfaglia ([jtranfaglia@nashp.org](mailto:jtranfaglia@nashp.org)).

Applications must be submitted no later than **Friday, June 30, 2017**. Contact Charles Townley at [ctownley@nashp.org](mailto:ctownley@nashp.org) if you have any questions about the learning series or the application process.
About HealthHIV

HealthHIV is a national non-profit working with organizations, communities, public health professionals, and health care providers to advance effective prevention, care, and support for people living with, or at risk for, HIV and HCV—particularly with LGBT and other underserved communities—by providing education and training, technical assistance and capacity building, advocacy, and health services research and evaluation.

For more information, visit www.healthhiv.org.

About the Three D HIV Prevention Program

The Three D HIV Prevention Program provides a continuum of technical assistance (TA) and information exchange activities that proactively and strategically responds to the gaps in knowledge, skills, and competency of HIV prevention partners (i.e. health departments, community-based organizations, and health care organizations). The Three D Program enhances the ability of TA recipients to conduct enhanced data collection and analysis to make better-informed programmatic decisions that impact the delivery of quality HIV prevention, care, and treatment services. HealthHIV engages multi-disciplinary partners to provide training and TA that looks comprehensively at the changing healthcare delivery landscape and the impact of health policy and financing on HIV prevention, care, and treatment services.

The Three D HIV Prevention Program is funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. NASHP serves as a key partner for the Three D program.

About NASHP

The National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) is an independent academy of state health policymakers. We are dedicated to helping states achieve excellence in health policy and practice. A non-profit and non-partisan organization, NASHP provides a forum for constructive work across branches and agencies of state government on critical health issues.

To accomplish our mission we:

- Convene state leaders to solve problems and share solutions
- Conduct policy analyses and research
- Disseminate information on state policies and programs
- Provide technical assistance to states

For more information, visit www.nashp.org.
APPLICATION FOR LEARNING SERIES PARTICIPATION

Below is the list of questions for prospective participants. We recommend completing this application online using SurveyMonkey [here](#), although we will consider applications submitted via e-mail (Word or PDF files only). If you email your application, submit complete applications to John Tranfaglia ([jtranfaglia@nashp.org](mailto:jtranfaglia@nashp.org)). Applications must be submitted no later than **Friday, June 30, 2017**. Contact Charles Townley at [ctownley@nashp.org](mailto:ctownley@nashp.org) with questions.

Team Members

Teams must include representation from state Medicaid and public health agencies. If senior leadership from either agency is not directly participating in the learning series, indicate their support of your participation when answering the questions. Additional team members from other state and local agencies may be added at the team’s discretion, including an additional team lead representing a jurisdiction’s public health department.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Team Members:</td>
<td>State Medicaid Agency Team Lead:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>State Public Health Agency Team Lead:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional Team Members:</td>
<td>Jurisdiction Public Health Department Lead:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Additional Team Members:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Respond to the following questions: (Note: We do not need extremely detailed answers to each question, but rather sufficient information to assess your initiative against the criteria listed on Page 3 of the RFA. As such, we anticipate that completed applications will run a total of 2-3 single-spaced pages, if completed in Word, and not exceed 5 single-spaced pages or approximately 2500 words.)

1. Is senior leadership directly participating in your state team? If not, do they support your participation in order to advance the implementation of PrEP in your state/jurisdiction?

2. Describe the current relationships between the Medicaid agency, state health department, and, if applicable, local health jurisdiction? How do you intend to use this opportunity to enhance collaboration between these entities to advance the implementation of PrEP in your state/jurisdiction?

3. Describe the current policies and/or programs that support the implementation of PrEP in your state/jurisdiction (e.g., is there current funding for PrEP services? Does Medicaid cover PrEP? Who currently provides PrEP services in the jurisdiction?). If none, what are your future plans?

4. What are your team’s anticipated outcomes for developing a shared work plan and participating in the learning series? In other words, what impact would participation have in your state/jurisdiction?

5. How do you plan to apply the best practices and lessons learned during the learning series in your state/jurisdiction?

6. What are the three most significant barriers your team is likely to face in implementing programs or policies that advance the implementation of PrEP in your state/jurisdiction?

7. What specific questions or topic areas would you like to see addressed during the learning series?
If there are any additional materials you would like us to consider as part of your application (e.g., a letter from agency leadership supporting your participation), send these materials via email to John Tranagli (jtranagli@nashp.org) no later than Friday, June 30, 2017.