



Center for State **Rx** Drug Pricing

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE STATE TRANSPARENCY LAWS

Release date: September 18, 2018

Background: NASHP is a nonpartisan forum of policymakers throughout state governments, learning, leading and implementing innovative solutions to health policy challenges. With funding from the Laura and John Arnold Foundation, NASHP operates the [Center for Rx Drug Pricing](#) that supports states working to lower their prescription drug costs through innovative legislation, policies, and strategies. A national workgroup of state leaders identified increasing price transparency to create public visibility and accountability as one [actionable strategy](#) to pursue to lower drug costs. As a result, a number of states have been pursuing legislative authority to create a prescription drug pricing transparency program and several are now implementing transparency laws. For further details, please see NASHP's [chart](#) comparing enacted transparency laws across states.

To support states' efforts to achieve greater visibility and accountability of prescription drug costs, NASHP has established a workgroup of state officials charged with implementing transparency laws in California, Nevada, Oregon, Connecticut and Vermont, as well as officials charged with studying potential approaches to transparency in Maine and New Hampshire who must report back to their legislatures next session. NASHP is seeking a partner with expertise in data collection, presentation and analysis to provide guidance and direction on how to create a meaningful prescription drug transparency program that officials can use for implementation in their own states, ideally with the ability to assure cross-state comparability.

Purpose: The primary goal of this project is to work with NASHP and our State Transparency Implementation Network, to create a roadmap and help design a template that a state can use to implement an organized, searchable database for prescription drug cost information as required by states' transparency laws. Together the roadmap and database template will be the framework that multiple states can use (now and into the future) to create their prescription drug cost transparency programs that include common terms, definitions and data points. Since details differ across the state transparency laws, such as the number of drugs and/or the type of cost increases to require reporting on, as well as to whom the information should be targeted (to the state, to consumers, to health plans, etc.), the roadmap and template will need to be created in consideration of these differences. The State Transparency Implementation Network anticipates each state will adapt the framework to meet the requirements of its law; however, standardization of common elements across states' drug cost transparency programs can improve the efficiency of these programs in how the data is collected and used.

NASHP recognizes that the work to create functional, meaningful prescription drug cost transparency that can be used to understand drug cost changes is an iterative process. It is likely there will be multiple phases to this work over time. Phase one, the framework that offers states a pathway to build a transparency program with an organized database that is responsive to state legislators' requests for a plan, is foundational to states' transparency efforts. To date, state transparency laws are primarily focused on better understanding drug manufacturers' price changes. Future phases of this work may

include collecting and organizing data from others within the prescription drug supply chain, including health plans, pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), pharmacies, hospitals, drug wholesalers, and others in order to fully understand drug pricing strategies through all aspects of the supply chain and distribution network. Looking ahead, the state workgroup is also interested in capturing coupon and rebate amounts as they too likely affect overall prescription drug costs. While the State Transparency Implementation Network's initial focus is on manufacturers' prices, the framework should be created so that it can be built upon to later include other stakeholders' information and to support state efforts to take action to limit cost increases revealed through transparency laws.

Anticipated timeline and due dates for major deliverables:

September 18, 2018	NASHP releases request for proposals
October 5, 2018	Proposals due by 5pm ET
October 12, 2018	NASHP selects and notifies contacts of successful proposal
November 8, 2018	Consultant will work with the State Transparency Implementation Network to summarize key issues from states related to the implementation of transparency laws and develop a work plan to address the key issues raised.
February 22, 2019	Consultant will revise the NASHP model transparency legislation with guidance from the State Transparency Team so it supports the framework being developed through this project.
March 8, 2019	Consultant will collaborate with the State Transparency Implementation Network to develop a roadmap that charts the path for states to create a drug transparency program, providing a plan to collect data from manufacturers regarding cost and pricing of prescription drugs, with the goal of transparency and accountability. To achieve this plan, the consultant will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a draft of common Database elements and definitions for reporting and submit the draft to the State Transparency Implementation Network for review and feedback; • Incorporate feedback from the State Transparency Implementation Network to finalize the common Database elements and definitions for reporting; and • Develop protocols for reporting across states.
May 8, 2019	Consultant will collaborate with the State Transparency Team to provide an organized, searchable database that provides a template to execute the plan laid out in the roadmap.
August 2019	Participate in either a session or meeting held in conjunction with NASHP's Annual State Health Policy Conference in Chicago, IL to share information on the state transparency framework.

Time-period and budget:

NASHP will execute a consultant contract for a short-term, limited budget agreement to complete the initial, foundational framework and database template. The time-period for this work will begin in October 2018 and end in August 2019 and will be reimbursed in agreement with the selected party based on a monthly invoice. Please submit a detailed, line-item budget as an appendix to your proposal.

How to respond:

Proposals should be submitted to Jennifer Reck (jreck@nashp.org) by October 5, 2018 5 p.m. ET and should be no more than five single spaced pages with 1-inch margins and 12-point font.

In your proposal, please explain:

- Your approach to establishing common data elements and definitions that multiple states can use for their prescription drug transparency programs;
- Your approach to providing states with advice or tools to ensure they are able to collect the information desired from manufacturers to create a meaningful transparency database/program;
- Your approach for designing the collection and presentation of the anticipated drug manufacturer's pricing information;
- Your experience with both prescription drug pricing information and creating searchable databases;
- Your experience working with state officials and/or with state legislation;
- Your experience working with regulators or other official enforcement agencies since the authority to enforce collection of data may reside in a different agency/office; and
- Your timeline for activities, keeping the dates noted above in mind.