

Center for Sharing Public Health Services Announces Newest Grantees

Eleven teams will focus on cross-jurisdictional sharing in public health

Topeka, Kan. – The Center for Sharing Public Health Services (the Center) has selected eleven public health teams to participate in a new funding initiative focused on cross-jurisdictional sharing (CJS) in public health. CJS occurs when jurisdictions, such as counties or cities, collaborate to deliver public health services across boundaries. By working together, public health agencies can build economies of scale that improve effectiveness and efficiency.

As part of the program, the eleven teams will receive grant funding and one-on-one technical assistance from the Center. The Center will get the opportunity to observe progress and to capture learning that it will use to develop and disseminate new tools and resources and to provide technical assistance to other jurisdictions that are considering or adopting CJS approaches.

“The teams were selected because their work focuses on areas the Center has prioritized for further study,” explained Gianfranco Pezzino, co-director of the Center. “For example, several of the teams are composed of smaller jurisdictions interested in using CJS strategies to provide a broader range of public health services.”

“In another example, some of the teams are working toward system-wide public health improvement at the state level, using a CJS approach,” added Patrick Libbey, who is also a co-director of the Center.

The following public health teams have been selected to participate in the new program:

Colorado: West Central Public Health Partnership—This partnership, which comprises six frontier and rural counties, is seeking to improve communications among member counties and to assess the effectiveness of and capacity for shared services and activities. The following counties participate in the partnership: Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel.

Colorado: San Luis Valley Public Health Partnership—This partnership, which comprises three frontier and three rural counties, will develop and implement a cross-jurisdictional data collection and management system. The following counties participate in the partnership: Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Mineral, Saguache and Rio Grande.

Florida: Capital Consortium—Ten health departments will evaluate how well their shared information technology (IT) support model is performing and identify needed improvements. The initiative covers Leon, Calhoun, Liberty, Gadsden, Jefferson, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla, Franklin and Gulf Counties. It also involves the Florida Department of Health and the Florida Capital Consortium IT Regional Office.

Kansas: American Heart Association—The American Heart Association in Kansas is working to plan and implement a data-sharing arrangement among the four federally recognized Native American Tribes in the state—Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas,

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, and the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska.

Kentucky: Tri-County Fitness Challenge—Three local health departments will develop an agreement to support future CJS efforts, starting with a tri-county fitness challenge. The initiative covers Bourbon, Clark and Montgomery Counties, with assistance from the University of Kentucky.

Nebraska: Nebraska Association of Local Health Departments (NALHD)—NALHD is leading a project to develop a model website for local health departments. It will be pilot tested by Central District Health Department, North Central District Health Department, Northeast Nebraska Public Health Department, Panhandle Public Health District and South Heartland District Health Department. Additional health departments may choose to launch similar websites in the future.

Ohio: Ohio Public Health Partnership (OPHP)—OPHP is a coalition comprising the Association of Ohio Health Commissioners (AOHC), Ohio Association of Boards of Health (OABH), Ohio Environmental Health Association (OEHA), Ohio Public Health Association (OPHA) and Ohio Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE). OPHP will analyze the extent to which local health departments seek to share foundational public health services that meet the Public Health Accreditation Board's standards and measures. It will then develop a template MOU that can be scaled to facilitate CJS arrangements for these services.

Oregon: Clatsop and Columbia Counties—Health departments and behavioral health agencies in Clatsop and Columbia Counties will develop a regional model of a case referral and management program for kids with special health needs.

Oregon: Polk and Marion Counties—Polk County and contiguous Marion County will explore the feasibility of cross-jurisdictional sharing and anticipate identifying a specific shared service in the process.

Washington: Washington State Department of Health—Washington State Department of Health is collaborating with Public Health Centers for Excellence and Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials to improve the statewide immunization program. The project partners will develop a pilot program to test a regional approach to administering the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program and the Assessment, Feedback, Incentives eXchange (AFIX) program's quality improvement activities.

Washington, D.C.: Center for State and Local Government Excellence (SLGE)—SLGE, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that helps state and local governments become excellent employers so they can attract and retain talented public servants, will develop three case studies focused on sharing local public health department personnel.

The Center, which serves as a national resource on CJS, is managed by the Kansas Health Institute with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The National Network of Public Health Institutes is the Center's administrative partner for this effort and awards and administers all grants.

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About the Center for Sharing Public Health Services

Since 2012, the Center for Sharing Public Health Services has served as a national resource on cross-jurisdictional sharing (CJS), building the evidence and producing and disseminating tools, methods and models to assist public health agencies and policymakers as they consider and adopt CJS approaches. The Center is a national initiative managed by the Kansas Health Institute with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. For more information, visit www.phsharing.org.

About the Kansas Health Institute

The Kansas Health Institute delivers credible information and research enabling policy leaders to make informed health policy decisions that enhance their effectiveness as champions for a healthier Kansas. The Kansas Health Institute is a nonprofit, nonpartisan health policy and research organization based in Topeka that was established in 1995 with a multiyear grant from the Kansas Health Foundation. For more information, visit www.khi.org.

About the National Network of Public Health Institutes

Mobilizing more than 40 public health institutes throughout 32 states along with ten university-based regional training centers and 40 training affiliates—the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) is a social, financial and information network, connecting more than 4,500 subject-matter experts with organizational partners across the nation. The network implements public health initiatives throughout all fifty states and is a go-to resource for creating multi-sector innovation that results in measurable improvements in the public's health. For more information, visit www.nnphi.org.

About the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

For more than 40 years the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has worked to improve health and health care. It is working with others to build a national Culture of Health enabling everyone in America to live longer, healthier lives. For more information, visit www.rwjf.org. Follow the Foundation on Twitter at www.rwjf.org/twitter or on Facebook at www.rwjf.org/facebook.