



Services for Governors and their Staff

~Providing Ideas that Work~

OUR MISSION

The NGA Center for Best Practices helps governors and their key policy staff develop and implement innovative solutions to challenges facing their states. Through the staff of the NGA Center, governors and their policy advisors can:

- **quickly learn about what works**, what doesn't, and what lessons can be learned from other governors grappling with the same problems;
- **obtain assistance** in designing and implementing new programs or in making current programs more effective; and
- **receive up-to-date, comprehensive information** about what is happening in other state capitals and in Washington, D.C., so governors are better prepared to react to emerging issues.

OUR SERVICES

Provide Tailored Technical Assistance

Using on-site problem analysis information on best practices and advice from colleagues across the country, the NGA Center acts as adjunct staff to governors, bringing assistance directly to you. Our policy experts can:

- **deliver** confidential, quick-response memoranda on specific requests about best practices;
- **analyze** problems on-site with governors' program and policy staff;
- **convene** focus groups of policymakers, program officials, and outside scholars; and
- **match** experts across state boundaries to share common experiences and concerns.

Identify and Share Best Practices

The NGA Center tracks, evaluates, and disseminates information on state innovations and best practices by:

- **surveying states** on key issues and providing assessments of current activities for individual states;
- **cataloging innovative programs** and sharing this information via reports, briefs, and a variety of online and printed materials; and

- **hosting seminars, conference calls, and regional roundtables** and disseminating information through the NGA Center Web site and online publications.

Explore Emerging National Trends

The NGA Center helps governors and their policy staff stay abreast of emerging issues by convening policy forums with state decisionmakers and experts from government, academia, and the private sector.

OUR RESOURCES

Conferences, Workshops, and Policy Forums

The NGA Center's policy forums are designed for governors' policy staff and frequently include sessions led by or involving governors.

The forums deliver relevant information and tools for policymakers. Many forums are regional in scope, interactive and intimate, often involving fewer than 50 participants. The NGA Center also hosts national conferences, convening experts from around the country to examine issues affecting all states.

Communication Tools

NGA produces an array of timely publications and briefs on key state policy issues, which are always accessible online or available gratis to governors and their staff. The NGA Center Web site (www.nga.org/center) is also a robust source of vital information.

Front & Center, the NGA Center's weekly electronic magazine exclusively for governors' policy staff highlights the latest information on critical trends, policies, and issues affecting states. Each story summarizes valuable information, provides links to additional resources, and lists a staff contact for further inquiries. ***Front & Center*** is available exclusively to governors' policy staff and is provided at no cost to subscribers.

NGA CENTER DIVISIONS

The Center is organized into five divisions with some collaborative projects across all divisions.

Education provides information on best practices in early childhood, elementary and secondary, and postsecondary education, including teacher quality, turning around low-performing schools, high school redesign, reading, access to and success in postsecondary education, extra learning opportunities, and school readiness.

Health covers a broad range of health financing, service delivery and policy issues, including containing health-care costs, health insurance trends, state initiatives in public health, aging and long-term care, children's health insurance program implementation, rural health, mental health and substance abuse, and health workforce.

Homeland Security and Technology informs states of best practices in emergency responsiveness to terrorism and natural disasters including bioterrorism, critical infrastructure protection, nuclear and radiological terrorism, information sharing, and disaster relief, and also advises states on science and technology, telecommunications, and information technology.

Environment, Energy & Natural Resources conducts analysis of state and federal policies affecting environmental protection, agriculture, growth management strategies, energy, water quality and quantity, wetlands, brownfields, military bases, cleanup and stewardship of nuclear weapons sites, and natural resources.

Social, Economic & Workforce Programs focuses on best practices, policy options, and service delivery improvements across a range of current and emerging issues, including lifelong learning, skills gaps, job training, employment systems, trade and trade adjustment, fiscal policy, economic development, low-income working families, child and family services, welfare reform, criminal justice, and prisoner re-entry.

NGA CENTER FOR BEST PRACTICES

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The NGA Center is a 501(c) 3 corporation governed by a board of four governors who report to NGA's Executive Committee. The board recommends NGA Center priorities, provides direction to NGA Center projects, and approves the NGA Center's annual budget.



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NGA CENTER DIVISIONS AND ISSUE AREAS

EDUCATION

Director: Dane Linn, 202/624-3629

Early Childhood Education
Education Reform
Extra Learning Opportunities
Leadership
Literacy
No Child Left Behind
Pay-for-Performance
Performance-Based Budgeting
Postsecondary Education
School Choice Vouchers/Charters
School Finance
School Safety
School-to-Work Transition
Special Education
Standards, Assessment, Accountability
Teacher Quality
Technology
Youth Development

SOCIAL, ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE PROGRAMS

Director: Steve Crawford, 202/624-5394

Access to Postsecondary Education
Adult Skill Upgrading
Affordable Housing
Criminal Justice
Economic Development Strategy & Planning
Employment Services
Entrepreneurship
Incumbent Worker Training
International Trade
Low Income Families
Marriage and Family Formation
Performance Management
Prisoner Re-entry
Program Integration
Quality of Life/Community Development
Rural Development
Sector-Based Workforce Strategies
State Workforce Systems

Tax Policy
Unemployment Insurance
Welfare Reform
Workforce and Economic Development
Workforce Investment Act
Youth Development
Youth Career Preparation

HEALTH

Director: Vacant, 202/624-5300

Adolescent Health
Aging
Cancer
Chronic Disease
Health Care Cost Containment
Health Care Quality
Health Insurance Coverage
Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Compliance
Health Workforce
Long-Term Care
Low Income Families
Maternal and Child Health
Medicaid
Medical Malpractice Insurance
Medicare
Mental Health
Obesity
Oral Health
Pharmaceuticals
Rural Health
State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)
Substance Abuse
Tobacco
Women's Health

ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES

Director: John Ratliff, 202/624-7740

Active Living
Agriculture
Air Quality
Brownfields
Climate Change
Coastal Issues
Community Design
Conservation, Land Issues
Electric Industry Restructuring
Energy
Forestry
Growth Management
Invasive Species
Military Bases
Superfund
Transportation Planning
Water Quality & Quantity

HOMELAND SECURITY & TECHNOLOGY
Director: Jerry Murphy, 202/624-7754

Agroterrorism
Bioterrorism Preparedness
Critical Infrastructure Protection
Energy Assurance
Information Sharing
Information Technology
Motor Carrier Programs
Natural Disaster Response
Nuclear and Radiological Terrorism
Science and Technology
Telecommunications & Digital Infrastructure
Transportation