

About the Health Division

The NGA Center for Best Practices Health Division provides governors and their staff with targeted policy analysis and information, customized technical assistance, best practices and insight into emerging health care issues. The Health Division focuses on helping governors develop policy and support implementation in six core issue areas: health system transformation; Medicaid and private health insurance; workforce; public health; data and analytics; and behavioral health and the social determinants of health. Examples of specific projects underway within the division include:

- Connecting States through a Bipartisan Learning Network on Health Reform
- Transforming State Health Systems to Improve Quality and Efficiency Focused on High-Needs, High-Cost Population
- Negotiating New, Broad Medicaid Authorities for States
- Addressing Opioid Use Disorder and Overdose Deaths
- Increasing Access to Care in Rural Areas
- Payment and Delivery System Reform
- Integrating Public Health with the Delivery System
- Improving Systems of Care for Maternal and Child Health
- Leveraging Clinical Data to Achieve Better Health, Better Care, and Lower Costs
- Using Medicaid to Better Target State Workforce Needs

Learning and Networking Opportunities for Health Policy Advisors

The Health Division offers a variety of learning and networking opportunities for states, which promote peer exchange for governors and their staff. Health Division staff facilitate this through:

- **Policy Academies:** The Health Division convenes state teams for an intensive, 12-month to 18-month process that supports in-depth policy exploration and provides technical assistance on specific health care challenges (for example, reducing cost and improving the outcomes of high-needs, high-cost patients and better integrating a state's public health system with its health care delivery system). States are selected on the basis of a competitive application and benefit from peer-to-peer-learning and subject matter expertise.
- **Experts Roundtables:** The Health Division hosts forums on a variety of relevant health care topics throughout the year. NGA funds governors' staff to attend the forums, which are an opportunity for staff to meet their counterparts from other states, discuss common challenges and promising solutions and hear from nationally recognized subject matter experts.
- **In-State Retreats:** The Health Division convenes in-state retreats one to three days in length to address state-specific issues such as developing a strategic framework for transforming state health systems and health care workforce planning. At the retreat, key stakeholders meet with national and regional experts to identify challenges and opportunities within the state, as well as develop a strategic plan and develop recommendations to meet a state's needs. The Health Division also provides in-depth policy analysis and technical assistance as requested by the state.
- **Learning Labs:** The Health Division brings small cohorts of states to learn directly from an innovator state about a successful, evidence-based intervention. Learning Labs also facilitate adoption and evaluation of the innovative practices among participating states.
- **Governors' Leadership Calls:** The Health Division regularly holds webinars for all states on hot topics within health care.

Technical Assistance for Health Policy Advisors

Health Division staff have decades of experience working in health policy and operations in state government, federal government and the private sector. They serve as a resource for governors' health advisors by providing tailored technical assistance, advice from or connections to other states, and access to outside experts to help a governor's office achieve its goals.

Resources for Governors' Policy Advisors

The Health Division develops and maintains a variety of resources on state health care issues, including a listserv for governors' health policy advisors, in-depth research documents, and information in response to ad hoc requests for information from states. Additional resources include:

- **Road Maps:** The Health Division provides detailed state road maps that guide state leaders in implementing cutting edge policy solutions based on expert consultation and evidence-based best practices.
- **Issue Briefs:** The Health Division prepares short, focused documents that provide analysis of state policies, issues, or trends, as well as recommendations for the health care policy community.
- **Expert Consultation:** The Health Division provides expert consultation on policy topics within its six core focus areas, as well as connecting state leaders to national experts.
- **In-Depth Analysis:** The Health Division prepares detailed analyses to respond to specific technical assistance requests from states.

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For more information about the work of the Health Division and access to recent publications, please visit the division's page on the NGA website at <https://www.nga.org/cms/center/health>.