

About the Economic Opportunity Division

The NGA Center for Best Practices Economic Opportunity (EO) Division provides information, research, policy analysis, technical assistance and resource development on key issues relevant to governors and their staff across a range of current and emerging issues. These issues include economic development and innovation, workforce development (including employment and training services), postsecondary education and human services for children, youth, low-income families and people with disabilities. Focus areas include:

Economic Development

- Innovation and Economic Growth
- Place-based Initiatives
- Entrepreneurship and New Businesses Development
- Strategies for Global Trade and Investment

Human Services

- Two-generation State Policy to Improve Family Economic Mobility
- Safe Reduction of Children in Foster Care
- Youth in Transition
- Reducing Poverty and Improving Family Economic Opportunity
- Improving the Human Services Delivery System
- Improving Outcomes for Justice-Involved Youth
- Strategies to Reduce Childhood Hunger

Postsecondary Education

- Evaluating Postsecondary Education Outcomes
- College and Career Readiness
- Credential Attainment
- Talent Pipeline Systems Alignment
- Innovative Finance Mechanisms

Workforce Development

- Disability Employment and Training
- Occupational Licensing
- State Talent Pipeline Systems Alignment
- Work-Based Learning and Apprenticeship
- Public Workforce System Support

Learning and Networking Opportunities for Governors' Policy Advisors

The EO Division offers a variety of learning and networking opportunities via meetings, conference calls and webinars. Most policy advisors find great value in learning about innovative policies and strategies from states addressing similar issues. Division staff facilitate this through:

- Policy Advisors' Institutes
- Policy Academies, Workshops and Learning Labs
- Conference Calls
- Webinars
- Email Message Alerts
- Newsletters

Technical Assistance for Governors' Policy Advisors

EO division staff provide tailored technical assistance to respond to the needs of governors and policy advisors in the areas of economic development, human services, postsecondary education, workforce development and related issues. Division staff use information about best practices, on-site problem analysis and advice from colleagues across the country to quickly and effectively respond to governors and their teams. The assistance can come in many forms, including confidential memos on specific policies, on-site assistance, review of draft legislation, input on state-of-the-state addresses or by facilitating consultations with outside experts to help the governor's office move its agenda.

Resources for Governors' Policy Advisors

The EO Division conducts detailed research and publishes a variety of documents on economic, human services, postsecondary education and workforce issues across the entire spectrum of our responsibilities. Documents target governors, their advisors, and executive branch agencies. The types of documents include:

- **Issue Briefs and Papers:** The EO Division develops focused documents that provide analysis of issue-specific state policies or trends and include leading practices and recommendations.
- **Reports:** The EO Division develops longer research documents that provide a more in-depth examination of topics.
- **Newsletters:** The programs within the EO Division each develop and disseminate newsletters to state policymakers that include opportunities for meetings and grants, current state policy actions, state best practices and recently released reports of interest to states in each issue area.
- **Expert Consultation and Technical Assistance:** The EO Division provides tailored policy research and responds to requests by providing written summaries or consultations.

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