



## **AcademyHealth and the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) Announce New Community of Practice Focused on Immunization**

Despite the availability of vaccines through Medicaid and the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program in the United States, immunization rates for children and pregnant women in Medicaid remain lower than those above the poverty line or with private insurance. In particular, disparities in vaccine coverage exist for black children and those living below the poverty level.<sup>1</sup> Pregnant women covered by Medicaid have some vaccination rates that are lower than rates among pregnant women with private insurance. AcademyHealth and the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP), with support from the Colorado Children's Immunization Coalition, invite you to apply for participation in a Community of Practice (CoP) for state Medicaid agencies interested in collaborating with their state public health and immunization information system partners to improve Medicaid policies and immunization outreach procedures that increase immunization rates among low-income children and pregnant women.

Funded through a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) cooperative agreement, *Immunization Barriers in the United States: Targeting Medicaid Partnerships*, AcademyHealth and NASHP seek four to six states, each comprised of multidisciplinary teams (i.e., Medicaid Medical or Policy Director, an Immunization State Program Manager, and a State Immunization Information System Coordinator), to form a Community of Practice (CoP). Through virtual and in-person engagement over the course of the project, AcademyHealth and NASHP will work with the CoP states to identify barriers to and share promising practices for increasing immunization rates for children and pregnant women with Medicaid.

### **Over the course of this two-to-three-year project, the Community of Practice will provide:**

- One-on-one consultation (e.g., calls every other month) to support state-identified needs.
- Regular opportunities to interact with other CoP members to address challenges as well as share experiences and lessons learned.
- Yearly in-person meetings of CoP teams to support state goals and provide in-person technical assistance.

### **Areas of focus for moderated calls, webinars, and light-touch technical assistance could include:**

- State Cross-Agency Collaboration
- Population-Based Interventions
- Healthcare Provider and Delivery Site Issues
- Access
- Data Sharing and Health Informatics
- Financing and Sustainability

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<sup>1</sup> Hill HA, Elam-Evans LD, Yankey D, Singleton JA, Kang Y. Vaccination coverage among children aged 19-35 months - United States, 2016. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep.* 2017;66(43):1171-77.

**Join Us:** If your Medicaid agency is interested in joining this Community of Practice (CoP), please send an email to Samantha Smith ([samantha.smith@academyhealth.org](mailto:samantha.smith@academyhealth.org)) by Friday **February 23, 2018** and attach your completed Expression of Interest (EOI) form (see the next page). Four to six states will be chosen to participate in the CoP.



## Expression of Interest

### Immunization Barriers in the United States: Targeting Medicaid Partnerships

AcademyHealth and the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) invite you to apply for participation in a **Community of Practice (CoP)** for state Medicaid agencies interested in collaborating with their state public health and immunization partners to improve Medicaid policies and immunization outreach procedures that increase immunization rates among low-income children and pregnant women. Four to six states will be chosen to participate. In the space provided below, please let us know how this CoP can support the work your state is already doing as well as new areas you wish to explore.

#### A. Your Project and Goals

1. Does your state Medicaid program currently collaborate (e.g., meet regularly) with your public health immunization and/or immunization information system agencies?  
 Yes.  
 No, our state has not yet undertaken this work. (Previous work is not required to participate.)

If **yes**, please describe your efforts in this area.

2. What results does your state hope to achieve during the initiative?

3. Is there any specific assistance your state will need, or are there barriers to your success that you can anticipate? If so, please describe below.

4. In the list below, please choose immunization-related subject areas that your state would be interested in learning about/receiving technical assistance during the initiative. Please keep in mind specific areas of need to address immunization disparities in your state, and check all that apply:

- State Cross-Agency Collaboration.** Examples: Immunization Information Systems (IIS), WIC partnerships, Medicaid/Public Health collaboration.
- Population-Based Interventions.** Examples: vaccination requirements for school and childcare, education and messaging campaigns.

- Healthcare Provider and Delivery Site Issues.** Examples: client reminder/recall systems, standing orders, healthcare provider recommendations, patient attitudes and beliefs, provider motivational interviewing, vaccine barriers for OB/GYNs and other providers, local public health agency opportunities and challenges, retail pharmacy and retail clinics.
- Access.** Examples: Vaccines for Children, community delivery sites, retail pharmacy and retail clinics, financial incentives, school-based health centers, school-located immunization clinics.
- Data Sharing and Health Informatics.** Examples: Assessment, Feedback, Incentives, Exchange (AFIX), data visualization tools, HIE, EHR, IIS functionality and interoperability.
- Financing and Sustainability.** Examples: HITECH FFP 90/10 Medicaid Matching Funds, billing and reimbursement, payor and credentialing issues, federal and state funding, financial barriers.
- Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Your Team**

1. Please identify the state Medicaid agency official **who will lead your team.**

Name:	Title:
Phone:	Email:

2. Please identify the public health official representing immunization (e.g., State Immunization Program Manager) who will participate on your team:

Name:	Title:
Phone:	Email:

3. Please identify the Immunization Information Systems (IIS) representative (e.g., the IIS Coordinator) who will participate on your team (if not the same as #2 above).

Name:	Title:
Phone:	Email:

4. Please list below any other individuals (and their affiliations) who will participate on your team (not required).

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**Send completed Expression of Interest forms or any questions about participating to Samantha Smith ([samantha.smith@academyhealth.org](mailto:samantha.smith@academyhealth.org)) by Friday February 23, 2018.**