

TeamWork

Leadership for Healthy States

Announcement of the 2015-2016 Program

Program description:

TeamWork: Leadership for Healthy States—previously known as the Excellence in State Public Health Law Program—strengthens relationships within and across branches of government, builds understanding of population health issues, and opens channels of communication and problem-solving that can be used to address future population health challenges. The chief objective of TeamWork in 2015-16 will remain (1) creating robust relationships among health officials, their legal counsel, and policy makers within states; (2) fostering collaborations and trust across branches of state government and partisan divides; and (3) encouraging innovative approaches to population health policy. TeamWork will also provide participants with access to best practices and technical assistance resources, consultants, and a peer network that will last beyond the 2015-16 program.

Evidence confirms that our greatest health challenges are complex and linked to multiple sectors in our society. Consequently, effective policy development that fosters good health and wellbeing requires all sectors to work together across traditional divides. TeamWork focuses on a flexible, collaborative approach to public policy development that systematically takes into account the health implications of policy decisions in areas not traditionally focused on health, such as education, transportation, and housing. This approach, often known as “health in all policies,” builds a team of diverse governmental partners and stakeholders to ensure that health consequences are considered when evaluating policy parameters, including design, siting, and funding. It aims to improve the accountability of policymakers for health impacts at all levels and types of policymaking, from policy development and implementation to enforcement and the evaluation of returns on investment.

TeamWork participants will engage at least one other cabinet-level executive agency as part of their projects, in addition to the department that has the lead for public health. Six teams will be selected to participate.

To be eligible, potential state teams must:

- Include the State Health Official (or his or her high-level designee) as the team leader
- Have eight members, including state legislators, the Governor’s health policy senior staff member, and a representative of another cabinet-level agency (a complete list of required team members will be available with the application)
- Not have participated in the Excellence in State Public Health Law Program in 2013-14

Participating teams will have access to:

- An expert Advisory Committee (the 2013-14 Advisory Committee list is available [here](#))
- Technical assistance funds of up to \$20,000
- Three leadership retreats
- In-state site visits and consultations

Key Dates:

- *May 1, 2015* – Application period opens, available through the Aspen Institute Justice & Society Program’s [homepage](#)
- *May 7* – Applicant information call, 4pm Eastern Time ([email](#) to request call-in information)
- *June 30* – Application period closes
- *Late July* – Teams announced
- *August 22-24* – Kick-off retreat in Aspen, CO
- *October 14-16* – Negotiation workshop at the Aspen Institute’s Wye River campus, for two members from each team
- *January 17-19, 2016 (tentative)* – Second TeamWork retreat, location TBD
- *June 1* – First drafts of teams’ 3-5 page case studies due (each team leader will also be required to produce a 500-word blog post on some aspect of TeamWork during the course of the program)
- *August 15* – Final drafts of case studies due
- *August 29-30 (tentative)* – Final retreat and TeamWork graduation ceremony, location TBD

Learn more by:

- Exploring the Excellence in State Public Health Law [webpages](#), including [highlights of the 2013-14 teams’ experiences](#)
- Contacting Meryl Chertoff, TeamWork Executive Director and Executive Director of the Aspen Institute Justice & Society Program, at meryl.chertoff@aspeninstitute.org or 202-736-5849