

## Data Analytic Technical Support for State Medicaid Agencies Program Overview

### Medicaid Innovation Accelerator Program

The Medicaid Innovation Accelerator Program (IAP) is a collaboration between the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services (CMCS) and the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) designed to build state capacity and support innovation in Medicaid. IAP also provides support to state Medicaid agencies in four functional areas, which are the building blocks of delivery system reform: data analytics; quality measurement; value-based payments and financial simulations; and performance improvement. Within the functional area of data analytics, IAP offers targeted technical support to Medicaid agencies in building their data analytic capacity as they design and implement delivery system reforms.

### Overview of Data Analytic Technical Support

For many states, a critical barrier to achieving Medicaid delivery system reform is data analytic capacity. To assist states in moving towards their Medicaid delivery system reform goals, IAP is offering targeted technical support to state Medicaid agencies around a variety of data analytic activities. This opportunity is open to states at all levels of expertise and experience in data analytics.

States will collaborate with IAP to receive this one-on-one data analytic technical support in one or more of the following areas:

- **Developing a data analytic strategy for analyzing a state's Medicaid program** *Examples include: Identifying and understanding various data sources related to a state's Medicaid population (e.g., enrollment, utilization rates, and costs by beneficiary type or subpopulations) and how they can be best utilized.*
- **Using data to drive programmatic decision-making** *Examples include: Developing and executing strategies to identify key data sources, summarize data, and create reports with data visualization for decision makers.*
- **Improving statistical programming and data modeling skills** *Examples include: Improving efficiencies in data management, support in choosing statistical software, selecting statistical tests and data models through state coaching and code review.*
- **Integrating Medicaid data with other data sets (excluding Medicare)** *Examples include: Linking Medicaid claims with housing records or public health data, reviewing data dictionaries and manuals to offer recommendations.*
- **Developing transfer protocols for sharing data with stakeholders** *Examples include: Designing dashboards that allow for data manipulation and visualization while maintaining data security.*

In the 2017 cohort, IAP helped states and territories to address topics such as:

- Developing a strategy for an update and redesign of the Medicaid annual reports, complete with data visualization consulting, to increase report clarity, effectiveness, and stakeholder comprehension of key metrics;
- Providing analytic resources to augment programmatic decision-making and improve capability to track patterns of care for beneficiaries with complex needs;

- Developing decision matrices to determine prioritization of metrics for a fully developed dashboard that will track state-approved opioid use disorder initiatives among Medicaid populations;
- Addressing confidentiality and data privacy requirements to appropriately report long-term services and supports data to stakeholders.

## Components of Data Analytic Technical Support for States

Up to 10 states will be selected for data analytic technical support. Selected states will be assigned a dedicated IAP Data Analytic (DA) team to assist them. This dedicated team works one-on-one with each selected state to provide data analytic consulting for up to 12 months. Team composition and support will be customized to states' needs.

A typical team consists of the following:

- A data analytics coach who is an expert in the field of data analytics, will serve as the main point of contact for the state, and will guide the state through their data analytic activities;
- A data governance lead who will serve as a point of reference to ensure that all data use agreements are secured and that data are accessed, utilized, and reported according to the data use agreement;
- A programmer that will advise the state on developing code, summarizing findings, and conducting data visualization;
- An analyst to conduct research, perform modeling, summarize findings, and support quality assurance; and
- A subject matter expert who will help the state understand these data.

Once selected, the assigned IAP DA team will work with states to develop a data analytic work plan that outlines each state's responsibilities (e.g., data sources, software, state time commitment to project and personnel), desired outcome, and timeline. Each state's IAP DA team will meet regularly with the state team to advise on analytic methodologies, discuss data quality issues, co-develop and/or review materials, and design and execute reports to meet the desired outcomes outlined in the data analytics plan.

## Selection Criteria and Timeframe

States interested in participating in data analytic technical support should submit a completed Expression of Interest form to IAP by March 5, 2018. States from the 2017 cohort are welcome to submit an Expression of Interest form requesting support that is unique from or builds upon the work conducted under their previous IAP DA participation. All states that submit an Expression of Interest will be contacted by IAP for a one-on-one conference call. The purpose of these calls is to discuss the state's goals and needs and to answer questions about the technical support offered. IAP anticipates notifying selected states in May 2018.

The following factors will be considered in selecting states:

- Support from the State Medicaid Director, including acknowledgement that the team has or will have sufficient staff time and resources committed to this effort;
- Commitment of the state Medicaid agency's Project Team Lead who will lead this work day-to-day;

Depending on the complexity and nature of the project, an appropriate number of state staff who are committed to the full term of the project and who can begin working on the project shortly after the state is selected;

- Appropriate data environment for executing the data analytics project;
- Clearly articulated analytic need(s) that can be addressed in 12 months or less;
- Demonstrated ability to sustain data analytic activity beyond the timeline of technical support, when appropriate.

Selected states will benefit from individual technical support to improve their data analytic capabilities. Benefits may be specific to each state and generally fall under the following areas:

- Development of new methods, tools, codes and templates to meet data analytic and reporting needs;
- Expert advice and review of data sources;
- Expanded and improved skills for state staff;
- Access to toolkits and best practices relevant to selected states' projects;
- Greater capacity to share reports and data with stakeholders;
- Expanded use of data to monitor state's Medicaid program and drive policy decisions.

## **How to Apply for Program Support**

Submit a completed Expression of Interest via email to [MedicaidIAP@CMS.HHS.GOV](mailto:MedicaidIAP@CMS.HHS.GOV) by March 5, 2018, at midnight ET.

Additional information about these program support opportunities can be found on Medicaid.gov IAP page: [Medicaid Innovation Accelerator Program \(IAP\)](#).

For questions about this Medicaid IAP opportunity, contact Jessie Parker at [Jessie.Parker@CMS.HHS.GOV](mailto:Jessie.Parker@CMS.HHS.GOV).