

Data Analytic Technical Support for State Medicaid Agencies Program Overview

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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 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 2018 cohort, IAP helped states and territories to address topics such as:

- Update and redesign dashboard visualizations to showcase metrics in key priority areas for leadership to evaluate cost-cutting measures;
- Consult on best practices to handle data requests and analyses for more standardized reporting;
- Support the monitoring and improvement of encounter and enrollment data in a newly developed data warehouse.

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 a minimum of six months and may be extended based on available resources. 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, 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 January 23, 2019. At this time, due to the periods of overlap, states that receive support in the 2018 cohort will not be able to apply for the 2019 cohort. If funding allows, 2018 cohort states may be able to apply for an extension of the current technical support. All states that submit an Expression of Interest will be contacted by IAP for a one-on-one 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 will notify the selected states by April 2019.

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 immediately after the state is selected in April 2019;
- Has a clear vision for a data analytic project that can be addressed in a six-month timeframe (for example, if the project is to create an executive dashboard, have the stakeholder buy-in with the metrics to display);
- Appropriate data environment for executing the data analytics project;
- If applicable, acquiring a data use agreement (DUA) in a timely fashion.
- 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 by midnight ET on January 23, 2019.

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.