

Data Analytic Technical Assistance for Medicaid Agencies

Program Overview

1/9/20

Medicaid Innovation Accelerator Program

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. The program provides technical assistance for states'/territory's ongoing delivery system reform efforts across four priority program areas: (1) Reducing Substance Use Disorders, (2) Improving Care for Medicaid Beneficiaries with Complex Care Needs and High Costs, (3) Promoting Community Integration Through Long-Term Services and Supports (CI-LTSS), and (4) Supporting Physical and Mental Health Integration. IAP also provides support in four functional areas, which IAP sees as the building blocks to delivery system reform: (1) Data Analytics, (2) Quality Measurement, (3) VBP and Financial Simulations, and (4) Performance Improvement.

Overview of Data Analytic Technical Assistance

For many states and territories, 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 assistance to Medicaid agencies around a variety of data analytic activities. This opportunity is open to states and territories at all levels of expertise and experience in data analytics.

Selected teams will collaborate with IAP to receive this one-on-one data analytic technical assistance in one of the following areas:

- **Develop 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.*
- **Use 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.*
- **Improve 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.*
- **Develop transfer protocols for sharing data with stakeholders** *Examples include: Designing dashboards that allow for data manipulation and visualization while maintaining data security.*

In the 2019 cohort, IAP helped states and territories to address topics such as:

- Selecting appropriate methods and developing a predictive modeling toolkit featuring an opioid use disorder use case study;
- Guiding analytic staff through selecting appropriate software and documenting step-by-step instructions on how to calculate and validate specific risk-adjusted quality measures;

- Testing the validity of methods used on public-facing reports and updated the visualizations to make them easier to digest for a wider audience; and
- Creating data dashboards that disseminates information to healthcare providers by showing key metrics on how to improve performance.

What Is the Benefit to Selected States/Territories?

Selected states/territories will benefit from individual technical assistance 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; and
- Expanded use of data to monitor state's Medicaid program and drive policy decisions.

Components of Technical Assistance for Medicaid Agencies

Up to ten Medicaid agencies will be selected for data analytic technical assistance. Selected teams will be assigned a dedicated IAP Data Analytic (DA) team to assist them. This dedicated team works one-on-one with each selected team to provide data analytic technical assistance for six months. Team composition and support will be customized to teams' needs.

An IAP DA 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 team 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, review analytic 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 the proposed team from states/territories to develop a data analytic work plan that outlines each team's responsibilities (e.g., data sources, software, state time commitment to project and personnel), desired outcome, and timeline. The two teams will meet regularly 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 Timeline

States and territories interested in participating in data analytic technical assistance should submit a completed Expression of Interest (EOI) form to IAP by January 31, 2020. Submitted EOI forms will be

reviewed by IAP and states/territories may be contacted by IAP for a one-on-one call. IAP will notify the selected states/territories in late February 2020. Technical assistance begins in March 2020.

The following factors will be considered in selecting teams:

- Support from the Medicaid Director, including acknowledgement that the team has or will have sufficient staff time and resources committed to this effort;
- Commitment of the 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/territory staff who are committed to the full term of the project and who can begin working on the project ;
- 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 stakeholder buy-in regarding which metrics to display);
- Appropriate data environment for executing the data analytics project;
- If applicable, ability to acquire a data use agreement (DUA) in a timely fashion; and
- Demonstrated ability to sustain data analytic activity beyond the timeline of technical assistance, when appropriate.

How Do Interested States Apply for Technical Assistance?

Interested states and territories are asked to complete and email the EOI form to MedicaidIAP@cms.hhs.gov by midnight (ET) on January 31, 2020, with the subject line "Data Analytics." The EOI form can be found online on the 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, using the subject line "Data Analytics."