

# The Advancing Health Equity: Leading Care, Payment, and System Transformation

## Learning Collaborative

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### General

1. Who do I contact for questions about the Request for Applications (RFA)?
  - a. You can contact our program office via email at [info@solvingdisparities.org](mailto:info@solvingdisparities.org) or on our toll free phone line at 1-866-344-9800. We are available during the hours of 9AM-5PM CDT. The program office will respond to questions within two business days of receipt.
2. Does this project provide any grant funding?
  - a. This project is not a grant, and thus no grant funds will be dispersed. It is a Learning Collaborative that brings together a unique group of experts in the field of payment reform, health equity, and health disparities. Teams will receive technical assistance and reimbursement for travel to the required in-person meetings (for up to four persons from each team).
3. We don't have prior history of addressing disparities but we have identified disparities and want to address them. Can we still apply?
  - a. Yes. All organizations in the applicant team are required to demonstrate a commitment to identifying and reducing disparities in health care processes and/or outcomes. A prior history is not required for application.

#### Submitting the Application

4. What organization on the team should be the lead applicant?
  - a. It is up to the applicant team to decide which organization will take the lead on submitting the application and being the primary contact during the application process. Note that the lead applicant organization will also need to designate one member of their organization to serve as the Learning Collaborative team lead. The Learning Collaborative team lead will be responsible for convening the different organizations and participants throughout the Learning Collaborative process.
5. Can we submit a paper application?
  - a. No. All applications must be submitted online at <https://is.gd/AHEapplication>. Your applications must include the application form, cover letter, responses to the RFA questions, a readiness assessment for each organization, and any appendices requested throughout the RFA document. Full application instructions can be found at <http://www.solvingdisparities.org>.

6. I'm having trouble submitting the application. Who should I contact?
  - a. You can contact our program office via email at [info@solvingdisparities.org](mailto:info@solvingdisparities.org) or on our toll free phone line at 1-866-344-9800. We are available during the hours of 9AM-5PM CDT. The program office will respond to questions within two business days of receipt.

### **Readiness Assessment**

7. How many people from each organization are supposed to complete the Readiness Assessment?
  - a. Each organization that is part of the applying team should complete one Readiness Assessment. The person(s) completing the Readiness Assessment should be able to represent the entire organization and to provide responses that take into account the various departments, culture and processes of the organization. The number of staff who work on the Readiness Assessment will vary by site.
8. What if some of the organizations within our applicant team have a high score for the Readiness Assessment, and some have a low score?
  - a. Organizations within a Learning Collaborative team will potentially be at different stages of readiness. This is not unusual, and consensus on all items is not required. As a reminder, each organization should submit their own Readiness Assessment.

### **Team Dynamics**

9. Our State Medicaid Director is new—can we still apply?
  - a. Yes, you can still apply.
10. Does the timing of generating and initiating contracts between partner organizations (e.g., between a state Medicaid office and a health plan) influence whether or not we can participate in the learning collaborative?
  - b. There are no eligibility requirements regarding contract status or activities (e.g., negotiation and contract generation) between organizations on the proposed Learning Collaborative team. The Learning Collaborative will begin with a kick-off meeting October 2-3, 2019. Training and program design activities of the collaborative will take place from October 2019 through April 2020. Programs will begin implementation in May of 2020. Please see the timeline in the RFA for more details.
  - c. Some Learning Collaborative teams may wish to incorporate equity-focused requirements and guidelines in future contracts as part of their Learning Collaborative program design and implementation. We understand that negotiation and contracting activities and timelines are complex and their timing may not align with the timeline of the Learning Collaborative. We

encourage applicants to contact us to discuss specific questions they might have about their contracting activities and timeline.

### **Data**

11. When will we know what type of data you want?
  - a. Data should be able to evaluate whether or not the efforts of the payment reform and care transformation were successful. While we can offer you guidance during the design and implementation phase, we cannot know beforehand what data will be most appropriate to collect.
12. We can only provide data in aggregate form—is this sufficient?
  - a. If data in aggregate form allow you to sufficiently answer whether or not the payment reform was successful, then yes.

### **Content-Specific Questions**

13. Do you have a preference for which type of disparity we select to address?
  - a. No—the disparity selected should be informed by the data and the goals of the organizations on the team.
14. Do you have a preference for target population?
  - a. No—the target population should be informed by the disparities identified in the data and the goals of the organizations on the team.

### **Definitions**

15. What constitutes a “sufficiently large and diverse” population?
  - a. This will vary depending on the details of the payment reform model and the proposed care transformation intervention(s). The main consideration is whether the health care delivery organizations have enough patients in their target population(s) to demonstrate impact on health and/or health care disparities. It is our hope that Learning Collaborative teams will be able to make informed decisions (post implementation of their programs) about which aspects of their projects were successful and the potential of sustaining them. Applicants are welcome to work with evaluators, statisticians, or other appropriate professionals in program evaluation to address questions about their overall proposal design, whether they have enough patients in their target population(s) to collect relevant data, their data collection procedures, and any plans for analyses they would like to conduct on their own. Advancing Health Equity will also be able to provide assistance as teams address these questions during the Learning Collaborative.