

NGA News Release

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STATES FOCUS ON REDUCING HEALTH COSTS WHILE IMPROVING CARE

WASHINGTON—The National Governors Association today announced that seven states will participate in a collaborative effort to design and improve state-level health systems to ensure better provision of coordinated and targeted services for “super-utilizers.” The selected states are **Alaska, Colorado, Kentucky, New Mexico, Puerto Rico, West Virginia and Wisconsin.**

Super-utilizers are patients who frequently use the emergency room, hospital inpatient services and other high-cost forms of health care delivery instead of coordinated, lower-cost interventions. Developing or enhancing systems of care for super-utilizers can enable state officials to address rising Medicaid expenditures while improving quality of care and health.

The *Developing State-Level Capacity to Support Super-Utilizers* policy academy is designed to assist states in creating the regulatory environment, data systems, workforce, financing structures and stakeholder relationships to support the delivery of high-quality and comprehensive services for super-utilizers.

“This collaboration will allow us to better respond to the unique health needs of individuals,” said **Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper.** “Colorado’s goal is to become the healthiest state in the nation by achieving the best care and producing the best health outcomes with the best value, and this will get us one step closer.”

A policy academy is a highly interactive, team-based, multi-state process for helping a select number of states develop and implement an action plan to address a complex public policy issue. Participating states receive guidance and technical assistance from NGA staff and faculty experts as well as consultants from the private sector, research organizations and academia.

Funding for the policy academy is provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Atlantic Philanthropies.

To learn more about NGA's health division, please visit www.nga.org/cms/center/health.

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Founded in 1908, the National Governors Association (NGA) is the collective voice of the nation's governors and one of Washington, D.C.'s most respected public policy organizations. Its members are the governors of the 55 states, territories and commonwealths. NGA provides governors and their senior staff members with services that range from representing states on Capitol Hill and before the Administration on key federal issues to developing and implementing innovative solutions to public policy challenges through the NGA Center for Best Practices. For more information, visit www.nga.org.