

ALIGNING SYSTEMS FOR HEALTH

Health Care + Public Health + Social Services

The Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC) leads the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's (RWJF's) national initiative, Aligning Systems for Health: Health Care + Public Health + Social Services. The initiative focuses on learning about effective ways to align health care, public health, and social services to better address the goals and needs of the people and communities they serve.

Aligning Systems for Health accomplishes these goals by:

- Synthesizing existing research and making actionable results available by multiple means with targeted audiences;
- Supporting original research and evaluation; and,
- Building relationships with those already working in the field, including the assembly of an expert technical advisory committee and the development of an alignment learning system.

Aligning Systems for Health will strengthen the evidence base around conditions that foster alignment and will translate these insights for communities, researchers, and decision makers to support on-the-ground efforts aimed at greater coordination among systems.

Call for Limited-Term Research and Evaluation Projects

The center supports a rolling submission process for limited-term research and evaluation projects that examine alignment efforts already underway. RWJF's hypothesis or theory of change is that aligned systems are those in which systems and leaders

- Share a set of priorities for outcomes (that are valued by the people they serve);
- Create a shared data, metrics, and measurement system;
- Establish stable financing with incentives and share accountability; and
- Develop strong governance with leadership and structured relationships.

Collectively, these are referred to as the core areas of alignment. GHPC is interested in early observations related to the following types of research questions:

- What is the current state of alignment activities in communities?
- Do current efforts focus more on one core area, or are there additional areas of focus in building aligned systems?
- How do the core areas of alignment support health care, public health, and social services in addressing people's and communities' goals and needs?

- What promotes or inhibits alignment of health care, public health, and social services?

RWJF and GHPC would also like to explore the roles of equity and citizen co-creation and the degrees to which these are present in current models of collaboration incorporating health care, public health, and social services.

Additionally, GHPC is interested in examining efforts through a realist evaluation lens with a focus on context, mechanism, and outcome. The realist perspective seeks to uncover what works, for whom, under what circumstances, and why?

The overall goal of this initial round of support is to strengthen the alignment theory of change by examining existing efforts with that lens. The projects should be achievable in 3 to 9 months with \$50,000 to \$75,000 of support. Exact timelines and grant support are flexible dependent on the evaluation proposed.

For questions, contact aligning@gsu.edu.

For more information on Aligning Systems for Health, the call for proposals, or the theory of change, please visit ghpc.gsu.edu/project/aligning/.