

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 people's and communities' goals and needs.

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.

Aligning Systems for Health strengthens the evidence base around conditions that foster cross-sector alignment and translates these insights for communities, researchers, and decision makers to support on-the-ground efforts aimed at greater system alignment.

The project's Framework for Aligning Sectors proposes that aligning sectors are those in which cross-sector systems and leaders

- Share a purpose that drives outcomes.
- Create shared data, metrics, and a measurement system.
- Develop strong governance.
- Establish stable financing with incentives and shared accountability.

Collectively, these are referred to as core components. Over the past year researchers at GHPC identified evidence supporting the importance of four adaptive factors that support alignment across sectors: equity, trust, community voices, and power dynamics. The Framework for Aligning Sectors acknowledges the interplay of these adaptive factors, and applicants are encouraged to consider them in this opportunity.

Call for Rapid-Cycle Research and Evaluation Projects

GHPC is supporting a rolling submission process for a third call for rapid-cycle research and evaluation projects that examine cross-sector alignment efforts already underway. In this round,

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GHPC is particularly interested in research projects that explore how cross-sector alignment and its constructs might be measured, including examination of the following research questions:

- How are collaboratives and partner organizations engaging community members in the course of measuring collaborative processes and outcomes? To what degree does the inclusion of community voices in process and outcome measurement prepare systems to be more accountable for people's and communities' goals and needs?
- How are cross-sector alignment processes and outcomes measured in fast-changing times, when technical details are often pushed aside? What affects whether or not cross-sector alignment processes and outcomes are measured at all?
- How are collaboratives deciding on process and outcome measures and measurement strategies? How are these process and outcome measures and measurement strategies linked to other data and data systems being used by their organizations?
- How are multisite collaboratives encouraging the uptake of process and outcome measurement tools across sites?
- What has been learned from the use of standardized or publicly available process and outcome measures, and how have such measures been used (or how could they be used) to make comparative assessments either within collaboratives or individual sites or across sites?
- What has been learned from the creation and use of custom process and outcome measures developed within collaboratives or specific sites? How might similar measurement approaches be useful for other collaboratives?
- How have efforts to center equity within collaboratives or partner organizations been measured? What are the results, and why?

These questions are examples of areas of interest, not an exhaustive list. Emphasis will be placed on rapid translation of findings to the field. Comparative analyses are encouraged. Projects should be achievable in nine months or less with up to \$75,000 of support. We expect to award up to four grants with a total value of up to \$300,000. This call will remain open until all funds are awarded.

Applicants should submit a brief paragraph to aligning@gsu.edu describing the research idea. Based on a review by project staff, applicants may be asked to submit a brief proposal.

Applicants are encouraged to review materials at www.alignforhealth.org to better understand RWJF's alignment strategy and the specific goals of this project.

For questions or more information, contact us at aligning@gsu.edu.