



INVITATION TO APPLY

Mayors' Institute on Opioids: Aligning City, County and State Resources to Address the Epidemic

This institute is part of NLC's Culture of Health Mayors' Institute Series, supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

When: May 9-10, 2018 (Mayors' Institute)

May 10-11, 2018 (Site visit and capacity-building session with city teams)

Where: To Be Announced

Goal: To support mayors in their efforts to identify and advance practical, comprehensive solutions to address the opioid epidemic in their communities; to explore opportunities to collaborate with county and state leaders; and to better align key systems, services and supports.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

- Is your mayor/city seeking to build and strengthen efforts to address the opioid epidemic?
- Could your city benefit from stronger collaboration with county and state officials in addressing this issue?
- Could your city benefit by better leveraging resources and assets at the federal and state levels to make progress on this issue?

If the answers to these questions are yes, your city is strongly encouraged to apply for this important opportunity.

The Mayors' Institute model is designed to ensure robust learning and engagement, while at the same time strengthening and deepening relationships to ensure greater collaboration. Mayors and their teams will benefit from peer sharing, guidance and advice from national, state and local experts on a range of issues associated with addressing the opioid epidemic.

THE OPPORTUNITY

The **National League of Cities (NLC)**, through its Institute for Youth, Education, and Families and its Center for City Solutions, and in collaboration with the **National Association of Counties (NACo)** and in consultation with the **National Governors Association (NGA)**, invites mayors and their teams to participate in an intensive, problem-solving session on the opioid epidemic. The peer-to-peer learning session includes dialogue and discussion with participating city teams and leading experts that will help strengthen efforts by local and state officials to develop and/or augment effective responses to the crisis. This exciting opportunity will explore alignment strategies across local and state levels of government, as well as identify opportunities for strengthening work across systems, with an emphasis on multi-sector partnerships that include public health, federal and state health insurance, public safety, criminal justice, education, child welfare, and early childhood.

IMPETUS FOR ACTION

The opioid epidemic continues to ravage communities throughout the United States; and consequently, the need for effective responses to the crisis has never been greater. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), 11.8 million people misused opioids in 2016. More than 64,000 people died from drug-overdoses in 2016, with the largest increase occurring among deaths related to fentanyl and synthetic opioids, with over 20,000 overdose deaths. And only one in five individuals with opioid use disorders receive specialty treatment for illicit drugs. Overall, in the United States, more than one million Americans have died in the past decade (2006-2015) from drug overdoses, alcohol and suicide.

Local communities confront the realities of this crisis each day, as municipal leaders witness the devastating impacts on families and the increasing toll on first responders, educators, child welfare agencies, criminal justice and public safety officials, public health professionals, community organizations and faith leaders, among others. There is no single solution for dealing with an issue of this magnitude. It requires collaboration among city, county and state leaders, all with different roles, knowledge and assets, to better coordinate efforts and effectively combat this epidemic.

Through this Mayors' Institute, we seek to build the capacity of mayors, working with county and state officials and key community partners, to better align and leverage leadership and assets across a range of systems. From the early childhood provider who works with children who have parents struggling with this epidemic, to the educator working to ensure students have access to information and prevention strategies, to the first responder seeking to ensure that a child receives the care and services they need, to the grandparent now raising a grandchild, the need for leadership and coordination has never been more urgent.

This Mayors' Institute, along with the 12-month technical assistance effort that will follow, will enable participating mayors and their teams to obtain practical solutions and advice in response to their city's specific circumstances and needs. Recommended strategies to improve outcomes related to the opioid epidemic will be identified and explored, including an emphasis on the effective use of data, innovative financing strategies and enhanced connections to how other systems can be leveraged to gain an upper hand on this growing epidemic. To learn more about NLC and NACo's existing efforts regarding in addressing the opioid crisis, go to: <http://opioidaction.org/>.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- A strong commitment by the mayor to address and strengthen efforts to confront the opioid epidemic and other substance use/mental health challenges in his/her city.
- **Mayoral participation in the Mayors' Institute on May 9 & 10. [Note: location to be announced.]**
- Ability to develop and present a case statement that articulates a key city/county challenge or opportunity related to the opioid epidemic.
- Ability to assemble a diverse city team – including the mayor and relevant senior city staff, county and/or state officials, and key community foundations/partners – that can provide leadership to improve outcomes. Teams that include both county and state officials will be strongly weighted in the selection process. Examples of county officials to consider as part of the team include the county executive, county council president, a county commissioner, or the director of the county health department. Examples of state officials include the public health commissioner, state attorney general, or senior staff from the governor's office.
- Commitment by the city team to attend associated events immediately following the Mayors' Institute (site visit(s) and team planning sessions). Mayors are welcome, but not required to stay for the subsequent sessions on May 10-11.

ADVANCING OUTCOMES: WHAT CITIES CAN EXPECT FROM PARTICIPATION IN THE MAYORS' INSTITUTE

NLC's well-established Mayors' Institute model stimulates and supports city-level progress by fostering a rich exchange of ideas among mayors, city and county staff and/or partners, prominent researchers, practitioners and other national experts. While the primary focus is on support for mayors to advance their local efforts, lessons emerging from the Mayors' Institute will also inform future efforts to promote a culture of health in communities throughout the nation, highlighting the potential of cross-agency, multi-sector approaches to address the most difficult and pressing health challenges. NLC staff will work with selected teams to build an effective case statement to frame local challenges and opportunities to address the opioid epidemic. Each case statement will include a description of what success would look like, among other elements.

- **Elevate Best Practices and Lessons Learned:** The Mayors' Institute will feature an engaging dialogue with peers and expert faculty, creating opportunities to share best practices; lessons learned; and practical support and advice on locally-defined challenges.
- **Leverage Recent Research and Innovations:** The Mayors' Institute will highlight emerging examples, based on the latest research and review of innovative models, of how other cities, counties and states are working to address the opioid crisis, with a focus on opportunities to strengthen coordination across systems.
- **Learn from Philanthropic Organizations Supporting Efforts to Address the Opioid Epidemic:** Mayors will be joined by leaders and experts from the nation's leading philanthropic foundations to hear from them about innovations they are supporting.

- **Facilitate Peer Learning:** Immediately following the Mayors’ Institute, city teams will engage in applied learning experiences, including a site visit for a first-hand look at local innovations to address substance abuse, with an emphasis on opioids.
- **Ensure Access to Additional Knowledge and Resources:** Following the conclusion of the Mayors’ Institute, NLC and its partners will continue to connect participating cities to valuable resources, including tools and experts to accelerate local progress and further promote shared learning.
- **Inform Future NLC Initiatives:** Through their work and contributions to this project, mayors and other leaders will influence the focus and direction of future NLC efforts to spread and scale promising models, practices and policy approaches aimed at curbing the opioid and substance abuse epidemics facing our communities and the nation.

KEY DATES FOR POTENTIAL APPLICANTS

What?	When?	Where?
Deadline for Letters of Interest	March 1, 2018	Send to Leah Ettman at Ettman@nlc.org
Deadline for Applications from Interested Cities	March 9, 2018	Send to Leah Ettman at Ettman@nlc.org
Selection of Cities for the Mayors’ Institute	March 19, 2018	
Deadline for Submission of Final Case Statements for the Mayors’ Institute	May 2, 2018	
Mayors’ Institute	May 9-10, 2018	To Be Announced
Site Visit and Hands-on Learning Experiences	May 10-11, 2018	To Be Announced

APPLYING FOR THE MAYORS' INSTITUTE ON OPIOIDS

Up to six cities will be selected for this Mayors' Institute. Mayors who are interested in participating should submit a letter of interest by March 1, 2018 and a narrative application of no more than five pages in length by March 9, 2018. The narrative should respond to the following prompts and questions:

Mayor's Availability:

1. Is the mayor available to participate in the Mayors' Institute on May 9-10, 2018?

City Team Composition:

2. Identify a city team that includes the mayor as well as relevant senior city staff, county and/or state officials and key community foundations/partners. In the selection of participating cities, strong consideration will be given to applications that propose to include county and/or state officials as part of their team. *(Note: NLC can cover travel costs for the Mayor and at least two city team members for each participating city. Up to two additional team members are welcome to participate at their own or the city's expense.)*

Current City Efforts:

3. Briefly describe the city's interest and/or experience addressing the opioid epidemic, including the scope and scale of current efforts.
4. What role has the mayor played to identify funding, forge partnerships or advance policies, practices and programs to support city efforts? If applicable, what has the city learned and how have these lessons changed local efforts?
5. List the key stakeholders in your city's efforts to address challenges related to the opioid epidemic. (Please consider the role of broader community stakeholders such as first responders, police, criminal justice, faith leaders, early childhood providers, educators, affected families, health providers, child welfare agencies, etc.)
 - Key Stakeholders
 - Role in efforts/strategy
 - Level of engagement (low, med, high)
6. What funding sources are being used to support the city's current efforts (e.g., city, state, federal, philanthropic, or private/corporate contributions)?
7. What key strategies and mechanisms has your city used that have been successful and/or helped spur change?
8. What results does the mayor hope to achieve by adopting a more integrated strategy to address the opioid epidemic? For what population(s)?

Desired Goals/Results:

9. What indicators have been established to track and measure progress on achieving desired results? What data are being collected and analyzed as part of this effort?
10. Why does the mayor feel that this is the right time to further address this issue? Is there a specific opportunity upon which the mayor now seeks to capitalize (e.g., partnership, funding, city/state/federal legislation/policy/bond/levy, public will or demand, public understanding of need based on recent events, etc.)?

Gaps and Areas of Opportunity:

- 11.** From the list below, please identify areas in which your city has the greatest need for additional support (rate the level of need):
- a. Research and data
 - b. Communications
 - c. Expanded partnerships (state & federal) / engagement with additional multi-sector stakeholders
 - d. Education of or outreach to policy and decision makers
 - e. Financing strategies
 - f. Equity
 - g. Sustainability
 - h. Community engagement
 - i. Best practices (e.g., changes to policing practices, strategies around drug treatment centers, equitable access to treatment, etc.)

QUESTIONS?

For questions about the Mayors' Institute process, please contact **Leah Ettman** at Ettman@nlc.org.

For questions related to content, please contact **Sue Polis** at Polis@nlc.org or **Jim Brooks** at Brooks@nlc.org. Thank you.