Key members of your 6|18 Initiative team could include champions and decision makers, with at least one staff person from each agency serving as the lead. Other team members may include a chief medical officer, Medicaid benefits and contracts specialist, policy analyst, or program director or subject matter expert for any 6|18 Initiative condition, like diabetes or hypertension. Based on the experience of past 6|18 Initiative teams, team members may spend at least four to five hours per month working on the Initiative.

Partnerships between state and territorial Medicaid and public health agencies are critical to the success of the 6|18 Initiative. Collaboration and shared priorities between agencies play a significant role in addressing health conditions. Reported partnership benefits include improved coordination, access to resources, increased cross-sector knowledge, increased visibility, improved accountability, and an opportunity for states to take advantage of the 6|18 Initiative.
• 6|18 Initiative teams have benefited from developing action plans to help team members outline project goals, measures, and timelines, and to ensure all partners agree.
• ASTHO's Guide on Getting Started with CDC’s 6|18 Initiative offers an Information Gathering Tool to help develop an action plan.

Public health and Medicaid staff may not be aware of policies and program structures within their partner agency. Learning each other’s language, agency priorities, and decision-making authorities may take time.

Some states developed learning opportunities to improve understanding. For example, Alaska and Minnesota held “Medicaid 101” trainings to explain Medicaid processes to public health staff.

Colorado co-funds two full-time staff to liaise between the state’s Medicaid and public health agencies. These liaisons help align agency objectives, connect subject matter expertise across departments, and support interagency data-sharing and other cross-agency collaborative efforts.

Colorado

KANSAS

Kansas has a Medicaid-public health liaison position that coordinates and interprets cross-agency data, engages Medicaid MCOs to promote evidence-based services, and maintains community partnerships.

Colorado

KANSAS

Other 6|18 Initiative Resources
CDC’s 6|18 Initiative: Accelerating Evidence into Action
Resource Center for Implementing CDC’s 6|18 Initiative

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