REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Overdose Data to Action Policy Capacity Building (Policy Academy) Opportunity
Applications Due: April 8, 2022

Summary Information

Background
The overdose crisis continues to challenge state and territorial health agencies and has been further exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has estimated that over 100,000 Americans died of a drug overdose from May 2020 to April 2021. The current state of the crisis shows the importance of implementing policies that support and enable comprehensive overdose prevention and surveillance efforts. Policy implementation can enhance Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) efforts, creating the conditions that support effective state and local strategies to address overdose morbidity and mortality. Jurisdictions have an opportunity to affect change through legislative or regulatory enactments.

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), with support from CDC, is pleased to announce a non-monetary capacity building opportunity for OD2A recipients through a Policy Academy. This project will help build state, territorial, and local health agency capacity around overdose policy readiness, development, implementation, and evaluation to accomplish or expand upon policy-related activities in the recipient’s current scope of work.

Eligibility: All OD2A recipients are eligible to apply.

ASTHO’s Point of Contact: Victoria Pless, Senior Analyst, Social and Behavioral Health: vpless@astho.org.

Project Elements and Expectations
This non-monetary opportunity will support up to five (5) OD2A recipient jurisdictions to participate in a Policy Academy that will enhance overdose response by leveraging health policy.

Intended Outcomes and Benefits
- Develop analytic skills to identify and define a public health issue, assess potential policy interventions, and implement policy proposals.
- Identify successful efforts of policy implementation, enforcement, and evaluation.
- Build partnerships with legislators, policy analysts, and other partners to support policy development.
Project Activities and Participant Expectations

This project will focus on policy development, implementation, and evaluation topics that are specific to OD2A recipients. Policy Academy participants are expected to participate in the following virtual activities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 23, 2022</td>
<td>3-3:40 p.m., ET</td>
<td>Policy Academy Informational Call</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 22, 2022</td>
<td>1-2 p.m., ET</td>
<td>Virtual kickoff call</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 4, 2022</td>
<td>1-3 p.m., ET</td>
<td>Policy Academy Session 1</td>
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<td>May 11, 2022</td>
<td>1-3 p.m., ET</td>
<td>Policy Academy Session 2</td>
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<td>May 18, 2022</td>
<td>1-3 p.m., ET</td>
<td>Policy Academy Session 3</td>
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<td>May 25, 2022</td>
<td>1-3 p.m., ET</td>
<td>Policy Academy Session 4</td>
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<td>April-June 2022</td>
<td>Approximately five hours</td>
<td>Policy Academy prework or follow-up work</td>
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<td>June 8, 2022</td>
<td>1-2 p.m., ET</td>
<td>Virtual final report-out call</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 19-20, 2022</td>
<td>1-5 p.m., ET, both days</td>
<td>ASTHO Policy Convening (optional)</td>
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Policy Academy Informational Call
ASTHO will host a 30-minute informational call to answer clarifying questions about the Policy Academy, the application, or any other relevant topics. This call will be recorded and distributed to OD2A recipients who are unable to join.

Virtual Kickoff Call
The virtual kickoff call will bring together ASTHO staff, partners, and participating jurisdictions to outline the timeline and expectations of the Policy Academy sessions. This call will also allow time for participating jurisdictions to introduce one another and outline their proposed policy ideas.

Policy Academy
The cornerstone of the Policy Academy learning experience will be completing a strategic, hands-on policy-level action learning project that will support participants' programmatic efforts to sustain or enhance their OD2A projects. ASTHO will support project development through tailored technical assistance over four virtual sessions. As part of the Policy Academy process, participants will:

- Identify an issue or barrier that aligns with the OD2A cooperative agreement.
- Identify and assess various policy options to address the issue.
- Create a policy proposal and determine how to engage stakeholders.
- Identify opportunities for implementation and evaluation to ensure effective adoption and enforcement of proposed policy.

Jurisdiction teams can choose to focus on legislative, regulatory, or organizational policies. Participants will become familiar with and utilize policy development frameworks such as the CDC Policy Process.

Virtual Final Report-out Call
The virtual final report-out call will be the final convening of ASTHO staff, participating jurisdictions, and other partners. This call will highlight successes of the program, discuss challenges, and provide opportunity to identify next steps.
**ASTHO Policy Convening (optional)**
Participants are also encouraged to participate in a two-half-day virtual ASTHO Policy Convening to discuss the outcomes of attending the Policy Academy. This virtual convening of OD2A jurisdictions, public health attorneys, legislative liaisons, and other policy subject matter experts will allow attendees to discuss overdose policy issues and share content expertise. Subject matter experts will host keynote sessions and discussions while OD2A jurisdictions can share best practices with each other around policy implementation and evaluation to promote collaboration and shared learning. Attending the Policy Convening is not required for Policy Academy participants but is an opportunity to engage in peer discussion and explore additional policy topics with subject matter experts. ASTHO expects to hold the event in July 2022.

**Team Engagement**
Team size for each jurisdiction can vary, but ASTHO recommends three to six people per team. OD2A program staff should engage with other staff members or partners to create a team for the Policy Academy. Team members could include key stakeholders invested in the improvement and success of the OD2A program and policy development from throughout the health agency, such as the OD2A principal investigator, OD2A program staff, program evaluators, legislative liaisons, policy analysts, and other partners as appropriate. Additionally, leadership buy-in can help facilitate success of this project, and inviting a member of departmental leadership (e.g., division director) to participate in project activities is encouraged. Preference will be given to teams with wide-ranging partners.

ASTHO understands the capacity of health agencies can be limited due to competing priorities. Because of this, ASTHO does not require that all team members be present for each Policy Academy meeting. However, because consistency and engagement are essential to success in the Policy Academy, ASTHO encourages applicants to ensure that most team members attend each Policy Academy session.

**Health Equity**
ASTHO is committed to promoting health equity and eliminating health inequities. Health inequities are reflected by disproportionately high rates of disease, premature death, and a lower quality of life. Health inequities are avoidable, and state, federal, and locally funded activities play a key role in helping to solve this problem. Inequities in overdose rates vary by socioeconomic characteristics such as age, race, ethnicity, economic resources, or gender and in access to interventions such as treatment or culturally appropriate educational outreach initiatives. Policy is a tool that can be utilized as an upstream approach to improving health equity, through promoting protective factors and mitigating risk factors. Applicants should consider the ways that health equity influences activities and how policy can play a key role in improving health outcomes.

**Application Information**

**Application Package**
Participation in this opportunity is open to all OD2A recipients interested in improving their capacity around policy development and evaluation. The application package consists of the following:

- Statement of interest in participating in this OD2A Policy Academy.
- Statement of current organization readiness, capacity, and landscape including current challenges, past policy experience, and roles or skills needed.
- Description of up to three proposed policy topics of interest and intended outcomes for participating in this OD2A Policy CBTA Opportunity.
• Contact information and confirmed commitment for up to six team members to attend a majority of the Policy Academy meetings (kickoff call, four Policy Academy sessions, final report out call).
• Confirmation of support from leadership (e.g. division director, OD2A Principal Investigator).

Evaluators
Each application will be reviewed and rated by a panel of ASTHO staff and expert policy partners.

Timeline
• Request for applications released: March 14, 2022
• Application submission deadline: April 4, 2022
• Policy Academy Sessions:
  o Policy Academy Kick-off Call: Friday, April 22, 1-2 p.m., ET
  o Policy Academy Session 1: Wednesday, May 4, 1-3 p.m., ET
  o Policy Academy Session 2: Wednesday, May 11, 1-3 p.m., ET
  o Policy Academy Session 3: Wednesday, May 18, 1-3 p.m., ET
  o Policy Academy Session 4: Wednesday, Wed, May 25, 1-3 p.m., ET
  o Final Report out Call: Wednesday, June 8, 1-2 p.m., ET
• Evaluations due: June 2022

Complete the online application by 11:59 p.m. ET on April 8, 2022. If you wish, you can review a PDF version of the application questions prior to completing the form. Incomplete applications or applications received after the deadline will not be considered. If you are having issues accessing the online application, please contact Victoria Pless (vpless@astho.org) for other submission options.

Contact Information
If you have any questions about the application or the project, please contact Victoria Pless, Senior Analyst, Social and Behavioral Health: vpless@astho.org.

Disclaimer Notice
This RFA is not binding on ASTHO, nor does it constitute a contractual offer. ASTHO reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to reject any or all proposals; to modify, supplement, or cancel the RFA; to waive any deviation from the RFA; to negotiate regarding any proposal; and to negotiate final terms and conditions that may differ from those stated in the RFA. Under no circumstances shall ASTHO be liable for any costs incurred by any person in connection with the preparation and submission of a response to this RFA.