



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Public Health Practice

Evaluating the Impact of Quality Improvement

Applicant Web Conference

University of Minnesota School of Public Health



Purpose of the Orientation

- **Understand the program and the application process**
- **Opportunity to ask questions**
 - Not the only opportunity to ask questions

Questions



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

- **If you have questions during the presentation, you can type your questions into the Q & A box and click submit at any time**
- **The conference moderators will consolidate and organize questions for the Q & A session at the end of the presentation**
- **Conference will be recorded and posted on our website**



Participants

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Housekeeping

- Session being recorded
- Ask questions via the Q&A panel
 - Click on the question mark icon to open the panel
- Ask only general interest questions
 - Program specific questions should be directed to **info-qipublichealth@rwjf.org**
- If there is a problem, send a message through the Q&A panel or call WebEx support at 866-229-3239 and select option 2



RWJF Public Health Strategy

We have three comprehensive and integrated objectives:

- **building an evidence base for effective public health practice and policy**
- **improving the performance and impact of public health agencies**
- **increasing advocacy for public health resources and policy changes that improve the public's health.**

See www.rwjf.org/publichealth for discussion of RWJF strategy



Quality Improvement in Public Health

- **Quality Improvement (QI) in public health:**
 - an overall organizational commitment to process analysis and outcome improvement
 - continuous rather than episodic
 - ultimately focused on improved population health status

QI can increase health departments' impact at the community level to improve health.



For this solicitation, Quality Improvement:

- Is focused on systems change to improve performance
- Can be assessed by data collection and analysis
- Is based on a four step model for improvement:
 1. Setting the aim
 2. Defining the measures
 3. Making changes based on analytic approaches
 4. Testing the effects of the changes on outcomes



Building Evidence On:

- The scope and nature of QI efforts in governmental public health departments;
- The value of QI efforts to improve public health processes, service delivery and health status outcomes;
- The QI techniques best suited for different types of processes and outcomes;
- The data sources and methods required to evaluate QI efforts;
- The barriers that impede health departments' efforts to apply QI, and the factors that enable the successful application of QI; and
- The resources and/or conditions needed for QI efforts to yield meaningful improvements in the delivery and impact of public health services.



Goals of the Solicitation:

- Gain knowledge about QI in public health departments
- Understand the impact of QI improvement efforts on public health processes and outcomes
- Identify data sources and methods required to assess the impact of QI projects in public health departments
- Identify the databases available for conducting time series analyses on community health status indices
- Provide policy makers, health departments, and funding agencies with information to better understand QI logic models in public health



Funding Program Basics:

- **\$2.4 million available**
 - 15 to 20 grants for up to 24 months
 - \$120,000 to \$160,000 each
- **Open to local, state, tribal, or territorial health departments**
- **Grants provide funds for:**
 - Initiating a new or carrying out an existing QI project (if applicable),
 - In either event the health department must have prior QI experience
 - Carrying out the QI project, and
 - Evaluating the QI project – must be at **least** 70% of funds



Review Process:

- Proposals will be peer-reviewed
- Two-stage proposal
 - **Brief: 4 page limit**
 - **Full: 10 page limit**
- Final Selection
 - **Reviewers recommend**
 - **RWJF makes the final decision**
- It is RWJF policy not to provide feedback on individual proposals



Proposal Timeline:

- **December 16, 2008: Brief proposal due**
- **Early February 2009: Applicants notified if invited to submit a full proposal**
- **March 4, 2009: Full proposal due**
- **Mid-April 2009: Finalists' notification sent**
- **June 15, 2009: Start of grants**
- **June 2011: Completion of grants**



Selection Criteria:

1. Alignment of proposed QI efforts with the definition of QI provided in the CFP;
2. Degree to which the proposed target area for QI has an indirect or direct link to improving population health status;
3. Potential for the evaluation of the QI effort to increase understanding of how to successfully apply QI to improve health department processes and outcomes;
4. Potential for the evaluation of the QI effort to demonstrate the value of QI for increasing the impact of public health services;
5. Ability to attend two two-day technical assistance meetings for all grantees, one at the beginning of the grant period and one at the end of the grant period; and
6. *If the evaluator has been identified*, outline of evaluation plan and qualifications of evaluator; or
7. *If the evaluator has not been identified*, proposed evaluation targets and proposed actions for identifying an evaluator for the project



Eligibility Criteria:

- **A local, state, tribal or territorial health department;**
- **Prior experience in conducting quality improvement processes;**
- **A new QI project that can be implemented immediately after the grant period begins and completed within one year *or* have a QI initiative currently in progress that will continue through the first year of the grant award period;**
- **Have a plan for identifying a qualified evaluator or, if a potential evaluator has already been identified, provide a curriculum vitae for that evaluator for the brief proposal stage. The evaluator can be internal or external to the health department; and**
- **Willing to publish and present findings to help increase the successful application of QI in health departments across the nation.**



What Should I Study?

Sample QI Efforts

- 1. Costs and benefits of implementing the QI effort;**
- 2. Applicability of different QI methods for different types of targets (e.g., capacity, process or health outcomes);**
- 3. Health department personnel attitudes towards and knowledge of QI before and after the QI effort;**
- 4. Stakeholder satisfaction with the QI implementation experience; or**
- 5. Enabling and limiting factors to the successful application of QI in the health department.**



What Should I Study?

Potential Areas for Evaluation

1. Increasing the efficiency of public health services

- Lower costs,
- Increased value of services,
- Increased volume of people served,
- Impact of services and customer satisfaction.

2. Implementing and assessing the effectiveness of evidence-based practices and approaches

- Improve the conditions that make people healthier
- Preventive activities (e.g., immunizations, increased access to areas for physical activity, reduced exposure to environmental toxins, etc.).

3. Improving health status indices for the populations served by the health department or reducing disparities in health outcomes between different populations in the community.



QI Resources

- **Multi-State Learning Collaborative (MLC-3), Lead States in Public Health Quality Improvement**
<http://www.nnphi.org/home/section/1-15/about-us/view/39/>
- **RAND, “Enhancing Public Health Preparedness: Exercises, Exemplary Practices, and Lessons Learned, Phase III; Task B2: Final Report: Promoting Emergency Preparedness and Readiness for Pandemic Influenza (PREPARE for PI), Pilot Quality Improvement Learning Collaborative”**
www.rand.org/pubs/working_papers/2007/RAND_WR491.pdf
- **"Embracing Quality in Local Public Health: Michigan's Quality Improvement Guidebook"**
http://accreditation.localhealth.net/MLC-2%20website/Michigans_QI_Guidebook.pdf
- **NACCHO, Quality Improvement Resources**
<http://www.naccho.org/topics/infrastructure/accreditation/QIresources.cfm>
- **Public Health Foundation, Performance Management and Quality Improvement**
<http://www.phf.org/pmqi/index.htm>

Links to these resources can be found at:

<http://www.rwjf.org/applications/solicited/cfp.jsp?ID=20581>



Questions?

Thank You.

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