The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) is pleased to announce the inaugural Opioid Policy Fellows Program. In its first year, this program application is open to chairs of health-related committees in the legislatures of all states, commonwealths and territories.

Up to 20 legislators will be selected for the program, which is designed to support legislators who are experienced or emerging leaders on opioid addiction and overdose issues. It is ideal for those leaders who want to expand their knowledge and learn from other legislators and leading experts from across the country. Throughout 2018, Fellows will:

- Participate in two in-person meetings in January and May/June 2018 and two virtual seminars
- Build connections with fellow legislative leaders and learn from experts
- Develop individual action plans related to opioid policy issues
- Receive NCSL staff support and technical assistance

Topics will emphasize health issues and will include, but are not limited to, policies and programs to prevent, intervene and treat opioid misuse, addiction and overdose. The program will also address intersections with human services and criminal justice issues.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND GOALS

Fellows will have the opportunity to be part of a peer learning community with other legislators and will be able to directly engage with leading research and policy experts in the field.

State legislatures address opioid-related program and policy issues such as strengthening prescription drug monitoring programs, developing prescribing guidelines, increasing naloxone access, and supporting access to treatment and recovery services. These and other innovative topics and cost-effective strategies will be covered during two face-to-face meetings and two virtual seminars/webinars.

Throughout the course of the year, Fellows will work on an individual action plan that they will develop during the meetings, and NCSL staff will be available to provide background research, testimony, in-state technical assistance, or other research to support these efforts. At the conclusion of the program, Fellows will become part of an alumni community and NCSL staff will continue to support learning opportunities and networking. Opioid Policy Fellows will:

- Build knowledge about new research and policy.
- Be part of a peer learning environment fostering the exchange of ideas and solutions related to opioid misuse and overdose, and many related issues.
- Meet, connect and learn from other legislative leaders.
- Receive the exclusive opportunity to connect with leading researchers and policy experts.
- Identify action steps as part of a practical plan for immediate use in your state.
This program is made possible by funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. The program is based on NCSL’s Early Learning Fellows model, which has successfully graduated five classes of legislators and legislative staff with expanded knowledge and motivation around early childhood issues.

**PROGRAM COMMITMENT AND REQUIREMENTS**

The Opioid Policy Fellows is a year-long program. Fellows commit to participating in two face-to-face meetings and two virtual seminars/webinars in 2018. Fellows also commit to developing an individual action plan, for which NCSL will provide support throughout the year.

- **Kick-Off Meeting.** Fellows will commit to a Kick-Off Meeting on **Friday, January 26-Sunday, January 28, 2018**. The meeting will start in the afternoon of Jan. 26 and conclude midday Jan. 28 in **New Orleans, La**. The meeting will feature a robust agenda of experts, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as time for networking and developing individual action plans.

- **Second Meeting.** Fellows will continue learning with a second meeting in **Denver, Colo.** in **May or June 2018**. This meeting will take place over the afternoon and evening of the first day and conclude midday on the second day. The agenda will expand on topics from the Kick-Off meeting, and will respond to topics raised by Fellows and/or recent trends in the states. It will also provide time for Fellows to network and discuss progress on their action plans and in their states.
  - The Fellows will then participate in NCSL’s **Health Chairs Meeting**, which will begin just following the conclusion of the May/June Fellows Meeting at the same location. Fellows will join a group of 40 additional health chairs for an additional 2.5 day meeting tailored specifically for leaders of health committees. It will feature a variety of health topics of importance to the states, and Fellows may also be asked to share their learning and progress on opioid-related issues. **Fellows commit to both the Fellows and Chairs Meetings.** These combined meetings will take place over four days between **May 15-May 20, 2018 OR June 9-June 15, 2018**. Note: the exact dates of the meetings will be confirmed by the time Fellows are notified of their application status to ensure Fellows can make the full program commitment.

- **Opioid Policy Webinar Seminars.** Fellows will also be expected to participate in two virtual seminars/webinars on a range of topics. Webinars will take place on **Friday, Feb. 23, 2018** and **Friday, April 6, 2018 at 2 p.m. ET**.

Fellows are expected to participate in BOTH face-to-face meetings and the TWO webinars. Additional opportunities, which may be provided over the course of the year, are optional. We understand that schedules are busy and if your schedule will NOT permit your attendance and participation in each of the components of this program, please consider refraining from applying.

NCSL will cover the travel costs to participate through grants from our generous funders. Travel costs include NCSL airfare (or the federal mileage reimbursement rate up to the lowest available airfare), hotel accommodations for the meetings, parking and ground transportation, and seminar-
sponsored meals. Examples of expenses NOT covered by NCSL include: meals outside of meeting sessions or during travel, alcohol and any additional nights of lodging.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND DEADLINES

The Opioid Policy Fellows is a competitive program; interested legislators must apply to participate. NCSL will review completed applications and select up to 20 participants to be part of the program. Please be aware that our funding limits the number of Fellows to a maximum class size of 20 this year, and not all applicants may be accepted into the program.

To be **eligible**, applicants must:

- Be a legislator who is a current or incoming chair of a health or health-related appropriations committee
- Commit to attending the two face-to-face meetings (travel and major expenses covered)
- Commit to attending the two webinars
- Commit to developing an individual action plan and following up with NCSL staff on progress as needed

The application and selection process occurs between October and December 2017, as follows:

- **Applications Open**: NCSL will post the application, answer questions about the program and accept any completed applications by Friday, November 10.
  - To be considered as a Fellow, **fill out the application completely**. Make sure you are **available to attend all events**, which are listed above.
  - This is a competitive process; a timely response will increase the likelihood that you will be selected. **Please submit your application by Friday, November 10, 2017**.

- **Application Review**: NCSL will review all applications and select up to 20 Fellows to participate. Legislators will be chosen based on interest, geographic representation, balance of political party make-up and overall points awarded to thoroughness of application responses.

- **Fellow Notification**: Applicants will be notified by **Monday, November 20, 2017** and if selected, will receive an invitation letter to participate in the program. They will also receive additional information about the meeting in January 2018. It is important that selected Fellows who accept the invitation to participate are able to attend both in-person meetings and webinars.

**Questions?**

Contact Kate Blackman at [kate.blackman@ncsl.org](mailto:kate.blackman@ncsl.org) or 303-856-1506.

**APPLICATIONS DUE**: Friday, November 10, 2017

Please fully complete the application and **send it to Kate Blackman** by **email**: [kate.blackman@ncsl.org](mailto:kate.blackman@ncsl.org) or **fax**: 303-856-2613.
NCSL Opioid Policy Fellows
2018 Program Application

Application Checklist:
- Please complete the General Information (section I)
- Please submit answers to the Narrative Information (section II)

This is a competitive application; not all applicants will be accepted. The selection committee will score your application based on the completeness and thoroughness of your responses. Applications may be handwritten (legibly) or typed.

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

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<th>State:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title:</td>
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<td>Preferred mailing address:</td>
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**Preferred Phone:**

This number is (select one):  ☐ Capitol  ☐ Home  ☐ Mobile  ☐ Other

**Alternate Phone:**

This number is (select one):  ☐ Capitol  ☐ Home  ☐ Mobile  ☐ Other

**Preferred Email:**

**Alternate Email:**

**Length of time in the Legislature:** __________ YEARS

**Legislative Committees**

1. Are you a chair of a committee? What committee(s)?
2. Please list the committees on which you serve, and the length of time you have been on each committee: (e.g., Health and Human Services, Member – 6 years)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Have you attended NCSL policy meetings in the past?</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
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<td>If yes, which meetings:</td>
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<th>Are you a member of NCSL’s Executive Committee?</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
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II. NARRATIVE INFORMATION (Please use additional pages as needed.)

1. Please select the top three opioid policy issues that are legislative priorities for you in your state:
   This question is not scored, but it will assist in planning for the Fellows program.

- Prevention strategies
- Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs
- Naloxone access
- Pain management (including pain management clinics and/or alternative pain management)
- Prescribing guidelines or limits (i.e., restrictions on dosages of opioids)
- Treatment access (including medication-assisted treatment, in-patient treatment, etc.)
- Recovery supports
- Data systems and tracking
- Insurance coverage and payment (i.e., Medicaid and/or private insurers)
- Education or training for health care providers
- Neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS)
- OTHER: ____________________________________________

2. How would you rate your knowledge about opioid policy topics?
   This question is not scored, but it will assist in planning for the Fellows program.

- Novice/beginner – limited knowledge base
- Intermediate – know some of the key ideas, but interested in digging deeper
- Master – would be interested in presenting at the meeting about the work I’ve spearheaded/been involved with in my state
3. Please answer the following questions as completely as possible. The selection committee will score your application on the completeness and thoroughness of your responses.

**Question: Describe your background and experience working on opioid-related issues. We are interested in your personal, professional and/or legislative experiences.**

Example might include: being a health care provider or administrator, having personal experiences with opioid misuse or addiction, sponsoring or working on legislation, participating in a task force, or other.

**Answer:**

**Question: Why are you interested in being an NCSL Opioid Policy Fellow?**

Examples might include: deepening your policy knowledge, returning to your state and introducing legislation, creating a new interim committee, informing colleagues on the topic, specific issues in your state, or other.

**Answer:**
Question: Describe your state’s recent efforts related to opioid misuse and overdose. If there has been no recent effort in your state, describe what you might like to see in your state in the future. Examples might include: enacted comprehensive legislation or multiple pieces of legislation related to specific topics, appropriated additional funds for specific efforts, participated in an interim committee that drafted recommendations for the legislature, created and/or participated in a study group, or other.

Answer:

APPLICATIONS DUE: Friday, November 10, 2017

Please submit your complete application to Kate Blackman by email: kate.blackman@ncsl.org or fax: 303-856-2613.

Questions?

For any questions about the application or the program, please contact Kate Blackman at kate.blackman@ncsl.org or 303-856-1506.