Behavioral Health Policy Academies

March 28, 2024
Agenda

1. Background
2. Behavioral Health Workforce Policy Academy
3. Children’s Behavioral Health Policy Academy
4. Application and Timeline
5. Question & Answer
About NASHP

The National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) is a nonpartisan organization committed to developing and advancing state health policy innovations and solutions.

NASHP supports state leaders by providing technical assistance, publishing and disseminating research and analyses, sharing best practices, and bringing new health policy ideas across executive and legislative branches of state government.
NASHP’s Focus on Behavioral Health

• Rising behavioral health needs among all ages, exacerbated by COVID-19

• Individuals and families often lack access to needed behavioral health care

• States and health systems face workforce shortages, misalignment across systems, and challenges in designing and implementing quality improvement approaches

• NASHP is offering two policy academies to support states in this area:
  • Behavioral Health Workforce
  • Children’s Behavioral Health
Policy academies bring together small, interagency teams to develop work plans around a specific policy topic over a series of months or years. These opportunities offer states direct technical assistance from NASHP staff and peer-based engagement across states.
What’s in it for states?

Policy academies are a valuable investment for officials, offering opportunities for knowledge sharing, networking, professional development, peer support, innovation, and accountability.
What’s in it for states?

NASHP is here to lend an extra hand to enhance your effectiveness, strengthen agency capacity, and assisting with your ultimate goal of improving health outcomes for residents in your states.
Behavioral Health Workforce Policy Academy
Why the focus on the behavioral health workforce now?

• Limited access to high-quality behavioral health interventions, exacerbated by increased demand coupled with workforce shortages and maldistribution presents a significant challenge to state efforts to modernize their behavioral health systems.

• Current workforce is aging and experiencing burnout

• Newer models, like CCBHCs and collaborative care, offer opportunities to rethink how the behavioral health workforce is utilized in care

Through a two-year policy academy, NASHP will support up to five state teams to develop and implement behavioral health workforce plans.
States may address multiple focus areas or identify additional priorities through their application or project planning process.
State Teams
Behavioral Health Workforce Policy Academy

Five senior officials with decision making authority
During the two-year policy academy, up to five state teams will participate in:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Timing/Frequency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual check-in calls</td>
<td>Bimonthly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multi-state calls</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-person meetings</td>
<td>September 2025 and September 2026</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical assistance support</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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Children’s Behavioral Health Policy Academy
Objective
Children’s Behavioral Health Policy Academy

- National youth behavioral health crisis
- Gaps in the children’s behavioral health continuum of care
  - Roughly half of all children with behavioral health needs do not receive needed care
  - Increased pediatric mental health-related emergency department visits and hospital "boarding" of children and youth with behavioral health needs
- States face challenges in addressing these needs and implementing improvements

Through a two-year policy academy, NASHP will support up to six state teams to implement policy strategies that strengthen the continuum of care for children and youth who are at risk of or have serious behavioral health needs.
Potential Focus Areas
Children’s Behavioral Health Policy Academy

- Strengthening the array of programs, services, and supports
- Improving alignment across child-serving systems
- Enhancing screening, assessment, and referral systems
- Supporting the behavioral health workforce and infrastructure

States may address multiple focus areas or identify additional priorities through their application or project planning process.
State Teams
Children’s Behavioral Health Policy Academy

• State teams of 3-5 members must include:
  • State Medicaid agency staff
  • State behavioral health agency staff
  • State Title V MCH program staff

• Optional additional partners include, but are not limited to:
  • State child welfare agency
  • State juvenile justice agency
  • Families/people with lived experience
  • State intellectual/developmental disabilities agency
  • State education agency
  • Medicaid managed care plan(s)
  • Provider and hospital groups (e.g., pediatricians, family physicians, children’s hospitals, residential treatment providers)
Children’s Behavioral Health Policy Academy

During the two-year policy academy, up to six state teams will participate in:

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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Timing/Frequency</th>
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<tr>
<td>Individual check-in calls</td>
<td>At least two per year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Webinars</td>
<td>At least two during the policy academy</td>
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<td>In-state visit</td>
<td>Varies (based on the state team’s availability)</td>
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<td>In-person meeting</td>
<td>September 2025</td>
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<tr>
<td>Closed listserv</td>
<td>Ongoing (June 2024-May 2026)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical assistance support</td>
<td>Ongoing (June 2024-May 2026)</td>
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Applications and Timeline
Application Process

1. Email NASHP with questions and to receive the brief application form
2. Submit applications to NASHP by 5 p.m. ET on Friday, April 26, 2024
3. NASHP will notify all state applicants in May 2024

NASHP Contacts:

• Behavioral Health Workforce: Rebekah Falkner at rfalkner@nashp.org
• Children’s Behavioral Health: Olivia Randi at orandi@nashp.org
## Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 19, 2024</td>
<td>Request for applications released</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 28, 2024</td>
<td>Informational webinar</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 26, 2024</td>
<td>State applications due</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2024</td>
<td>Selected state teams notified</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2024</td>
<td>Policy academy kick-off calls</td>
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<tr>
<td>June-May 2026</td>
<td>Targeted technical assistance and peer-to-peer learning</td>
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Questions?
Thank you!