

THE NATIONAL INTEROPERABILITY COLLABORATIVE (NIC)

What is it? NIC is a new initiative designed to increase collaboration among the sectors that impact health and well-being by improving information-sharing, interoperability, and use of technology. Stewards of Change Institute (SOI) and AcademyHealth are using \$1.2 million in seed funding from the Kresge Foundation to create a NIC “community of networks” that brings broad benefits, particularly for at-risk and underserved members of society.

What does it do? Building on existing networks, NIC:

- Convenes key stakeholders, in person and virtually, to share information and provide feedback.
- Identifies best practices through an environmental scan of interoperability guidance and toolkits.
- Develops core measures and builds evidence to describe successful interoperability initiatives.
- Provides case studies and technical assistance on health crises such as the opioid epidemic.
- Offers SOI's InterOptimability Training Curriculum and Certification (ITCC) program.
- Disseminates information and recommendations, including through an online community portal.

Who's participating? NIC's current partners are the California Health and Human Services Agency; the Connecticut Department of Social Services; the Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources; the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS); and the Silicon Valley Regional Data Trust (SVRDT). SOI and AcademyHealth are engaging those working on interoperability issues from across sectors including health, human services, education, criminal justice, and child welfare, among others that impact health.

What's the value of involvement? Participants are connected to projects and leaders of innovative interoperability efforts nationwide. They also receive access to a broad array of cutting-edge information, training, tools, and best practices – from across sectors – to enhance their efficiency, save money, improve outcomes, and advance their own interoperability goals. Ultimately, the value of involvement is being on the frontlines of accelerating progress to get further faster.

What's different about it? While many current interoperability efforts involve outreach from health care to the other sectors affecting health and well-being, NIC largely focuses on the social services side to learn how to leverage data from across sectors to: (a) better serve at-risk populations and (b) capture best practices.

What can participants contribute? Participants are integral parts of the NIC community. They share their own experiences in advancing interoperability – both their success stories and challenges – through online and in-person discussions. They also provide: (a) expertise to inform NIC efforts such as the environmental scan, trainings, and case studies; (b) vital content for the online community portal to expedite learnings across sectors; and (c) guidance to steer NIC in directions that truly serve its stakeholders.

How can you get involved? Visit academyhealth.org/NIC or email the team at NIC@stewardsofchange.org.

With thanks for foundational support from:

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