



Capacity Building Initiative to Advance Health Equity through the Implementation of SDOH Data Exchange using Gravity Standards.

Civitas Networks for Health, in partnership with the Gravity Project and supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is pleased to announce an opportunity for teams with early-stage pilot projects using Gravity data standards to facilitate the exchange of SDOH data to receive specialized training and technical assistance.

Through this initiative, Civitas and Gravity Project will engage up to 3 cross-sector teams for 7 months to support [Tier 2](#) testing of [Gravity-vetted terminology](#) to address public health priorities in line with the [CDC's SDOH Data Exchange for Chronic Disease Prevention Public Health Use Case Package](#) (see pages 24 to 36 or list below) and/or health equity use cases (e.g., maternal health, people living with disabilities, indigenous health, data sovereignty, strengthening rural communities, etc.).

1. Community Health Needs Assessment Leveraging Individual Level Social Care Data;
2. Assessment of State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial (STLT) Health Department Diabetes Programs; and
3. Monitoring Federal Program Successes for Individual, Program, and Population Health Advancement.

Civitas is a mission- and member-driven organization dedicated to using health information exchange, health data, and multidisciplinary, cross-sector approaches to improve health. The Gravity Project is a national public collaborative and Health Level Seven International (HL7®) FHIR® Accelerator developing data standards to help reduce barriers for documenting and exchanging social risk and protective factors within health care and other sectors.

What: Capacity Building Initiative to Advance Health Equity through the Implementation of SDOH Data Exchange using Gravity Standards.

Office Hours: For assistance with any questions about this opportunity or the application process, please attend an open office hour session on Thursday, February 9 from 2pm – 3pm ET. Register [here](#).

Application Due Date: February 24, 2023

Notification Date: March 17, 2023

Project Period: April 1 – October 31, 2023

Point of Contact: Heidi Penix, Program Manager, hpenix@civitasforhealth.org

Purpose:

- Improve accessibility, knowledge, and capabilities for exchange of Gravity terminology standards with a focus on public health and health equity.
- Strengthen capacity for viable, cross-sector data sharing partnerships.
- Increase communication and collaboration for coordinating health and social care services among integral parties such as health care payers, providers, patients, community members, vendors, public health, health information exchanges, and community-based health and social services.
- Develop a co-designed, team-based approach to implementation that centers health equity and leverages the knowledge, skills and experience of the community and the implementers.
- Develop and disseminate technical assistance (TA) and resources to inform future pilots and implementation efforts.
- Provide critical insight to Gravity Project to ensure terminology and technical workstreams address public health and health equity objectives.

Value proposition:

Selected teams and their pilot projects will be embedded in the existing [Gravity Pilots Affinity Group](#) structure which includes 1.5-hour public convenings on the last Thursday of each month. This group is an open, peer-to-peer learning forum for entities interested in testing and piloting Gravity standards. It's open to any interested party and aims to foster information sharing, collaboration, and learning.

Selected teams will also receive:

- Readiness assessment to determine an individualized TA plan.
- One 30-minute TA session every other week from leading subject matter experts focused on identified challenges/needs. Additional ad hoc meetings may be scheduled as needed.
- Onsite, two-day event facilitated with your team and broader community partners. Event support includes planning and logistical support, messaging, workshop facilitation and related resources, local technical assistance, and knowledge capture, sharing, and dissemination. Costs for up to 50 local participants will be covered.
- Peer-to-peer learning opportunities, peer support and facilitated connection to promote collaborative problem solving.
- Access to tools, educational materials, and resources to support implementation.
- Opportunities to participate in co-design sessions to assist in the development of tools and resources to support implementation.

Requirements for Applicants:

- Purpose Requirements:

- Pilot projects must address public health priorities in line with the [CDC's SDOH Data Exchange for Chronic Disease Prevention Public Health Use Case Package](#) and/or health equity use cases (e.g., maternal health, people living with disabilities, indigenous health, data sovereignty, strengthening rural communities, etc.)
- Team requirements:
 - Pilot projects must include existing cross-sector teams.
 - Including representatives from clinical care, community-based care, public health social care data exchange partners, and information exchanges.
 - Based on HealthBegins [Levels of Health-Related Social Needs and Social Determinants of Health Integration Framework](#), the minimum level of integration required for pilot teams is Level 3 – Basic Collaboration of Practices.
 - *Basic Collaboration of Practices – Health care and social services providers collaborate more regularly. Providers still use separate systems, but communication becomes more regular, especially by phone or email, with an occasional meeting to discuss shared patients. Movement of patients between health care and social services sites is most often through a referral process that has a higher likelihood of success because sites have well-established processes. Staff at each site may feel like they are part of a larger team, but the team and how it operates are not clearly defined.*
- Technical Requirements:
 - Teams must be using Gravity-vetted terminology to document social risk data (including screening, diagnoses, goals, and interventions). This meets the criteria for testing Tier 1 Gravity Project standards.
 - Teams must exchange data defined in Tier 1 using secure, electronic information exchange leveraging established content and transport standards (C-CDA, HL7 V2, Direct Transport). This meets the criteria for testing Tier 2 Gravity Project standards.

How to Apply:

Please submit the [application](#) by February 24, 2023. Applicants will be notified of their status on March 17, 2023.

If you have any questions about the application process, please contact Heidi Penix at hpenix@civitasforhealth.org.