



State Health Technology Commons Program | Frequently Asked Questions

In partnership with state health policy and health IT leaders Kate Ricker and Amy Zimmerman, Civitas Networks for Health (Civitas) is hosting a new program, the State Health Technology Commons, to support state health IT leaders working in government agencies to assist in aligning and coordinating state efforts with Civitas programs and provide insights for developing additional support initiatives for Civitas members.

What is the State Health Technology Commons program?

The State Health Technology Commons is a new program dedicated to supporting state health IT leaders. The program aims to create a neutral forum for state health IT leaders to engage in collaborative peer-to-peer learning, receive general technical assistance, be informed of new and relevant national policies, trends, and resources, and enhance communication and awareness among federal, state, and community partners, including Civitas members.

Who are state health IT leaders?

A state health IT leader is an individual or team in government agencies who oversees the strategic planning, implementation, and coordination of health IT initiatives at the state level. This role can vary, encompassing cross-agency data and technology portfolios, Medicaid-specific health IT strategies, or public health technology and data coordination. Positions include, but are not limited to, the following roles: State HIT Director or Coordinator, Chief Health Information Officer, Chief Data Officer, Medicaid Health IT Coordinator, and Public Health Informatics Coordinator.

What is the mission of the State Health Technology Commons?

The mission of the State Health Technology Commons is to strengthen and advance the capacity of state health IT leaders responsible for promoting data use, interoperability, and reusable technical infrastructure across their state. The goal is to develop and foster cross-state agency and community partnerships and implement strategies, policies, and technologies to improve health at the individual and public health levels. The State Health Technology Commons program aims to facilitate the transformation of state-level health data systems to optimize health outcomes through collaborative technology-driven solutions, and by leveraging existing health IT infrastructure.

Why is the State Health Technology Commons program needed?

Given the complexity and evolving nature of state and federal health IT priorities, health information exchange (HIE), health data utilities (HDUs), the integration of social needs data, public health modernization efforts along with changing privacy/data sharing regulations and policies, state health technology leaders have expressed the need for a neutral convenor to assist them with:

- Navigating state, regional, and national health IT activities impacting state-level needs,
- Understanding the impact of federal policies relating to health IT, HIE, privacy, etc.
- Facilitating peer-to-peer learning includes sharing of best practices and lessons learned,
- Increasing awareness of industry initiatives, and



- Providing coordination and alignment across multiple strategic initiatives demanding state leaders' participation.

What service offerings will the State Health Technology Commons program provide?

The State Health Technology Commons will:

- Host a State Leaders Health IT Learning Collaborative. This Learning Collaborative will convene state health IT leaders at least monthly to discuss best practices, challenges, and information on topics of interest such as financing state health IT efforts. These topics will include working with Medicaid, public health data and system modernization, HDUs, impacts of federal regulations, community information exchange efforts, the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (TEFCA), etc. Subject matter experts and Federal officials will be invited to present on topics of interest as needed.
- Convene virtual or in-person workshops where state health IT leaders will work in groups to solve priority topics based on lived experience and shared learning. The workshops will include educating state leaders on specific issues, facilitating discussions, validating information, documenting challenges, and collectively building a shared output informing states' perspectives and needs related to health IT efforts. Topics and priorities for collaborative convenings will be developed jointly with Civitas staff and an Advisory Council.
 - Some workshops may be designed for state leaders only, whereas others may be held in partnership with Civitas members.
- Seek to develop white papers/policy statements and respond to RFIs and proposed regulations based on the state's needs and perspectives.

Who can participate in the State Health Technology Commons program?

Any state health IT leader and associated staff can participate. This includes state health IT leaders from State Medicaid Agencies, Health and Human Service agencies, Departments of Health, Governor's Office, State IT Departments, etc. Additionally, contracted staff that serve as state staff (under a staff augmentation role) may participate (as opposed to vendor staff).

How can I find out if my state's health IT leaders are participating?

To identify if any of your state IT health leaders are participating in the State Health Technology Commons, please contact Kate Ricker at kicker@civitasforhealth.org.

How will the information discussed during State Health Technology Commons meetings be shared with Civitas leadership or members?

We are committed to transparent and collaborative information sharing. Any information already publicly available or agreed upon by participants will be shared with Civitas leadership or members. State-specific information and discussions from State Health Technology Commons Learning Collaborative meetings will remain confidential, ensuring privacy and trust, unless there is a consensus to share the information more broadly. This approach fosters a secure environment for open dialogue and collective progress.

Will there be an opportunity to meet with Civitas' members to address areas of common interest or areas of concern?



Yes, the State Health Technology Commons Program will provide various opportunities to communicate, collaborate, and coordinate with Civitas members to address areas of common interest or concerns. This could include inviting Civitas members to attend specific learning collaborative meetings, convening collaborative workshops, or other forums that foster discussion among Civitas members and State Health Technology Commons participants.