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## 15 STATES STRIVING TO BECOME “STATES OF SOLUTIONS” IN ADDRESSING HEALTH EQUITY

### *Governmental and private groups to partner on population health challenges*

**Boston, MA, May 2, 2018** — With generous funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the [100 Million Healthier Lives](#) initiative, convened by the [Institute for Healthcare Improvement](#) (IHI), is pleased to announce that networks in 15 states across the country have stepped forward to improve health equity as “[States of Solutions](#).” Partners across these states will seek to apply a health equity lens as they improve a range of population health challenges from chronic disease to birth outcomes to mental health to economic disparities.

The 100 Million Healthier Lives States of Solutions program brings together governmental and nongovernmental partners, including those most affected by health inequity. In Phase I of the initiative, these states and partners will lay a foundation to advance equity by instituting improvement strategies and pursuing system change within their organizations. States that make substantial progress during Phase I will move into Phase II of the initiative, where partners will engage in equity action labs and pursue initiatives to advance strategic and coordinated actions across sectors and communities to improve health equity.

“States operate at a level that makes both innovation and system change possible, with shared governance, policy, and payment systems. We look forward to working with and learning alongside these motivated partners on the journey to achieving meaningful, measurable results in health equity,” said Somava Stout, MD, MS, Vice President, IHI, and Executive Lead of 100 Million Healthier Lives. “We encourage like-minded organizations in these states to join the journey by reaching out to the lead applicants, who are serving as facilitators in bringing together an unprecedented collaboration within their states to advance equity.”

Stout said that a number of 100 Million Healthier Lives partners across the country with deep experience in policy reform, system change, and equity will support states by sharing their expertise. They include the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, PolicyLink, the Georgia Health Policy Center, Frontline Solutions, and Heluna Health, as well as IHI.

“States across the country are innovating in important ways to transform health systems and improve well-being for their residents,” said Hilary Heishman, MPH, Senior Program Officer, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. “We are eager to learn through States of Solutions how public and private partners within different states collaborate and align with one another to advance health equity.”

States of Solutions is a signature program of the 100 Million Healthier Lives movement’s [SCALE](#) initiative. The 100 Million Healthier Lives initiative accompanies change makers at every level to develop unprecedented collaboration, innovative improvement, and system transformation to achieve breakthrough results in health, well-being, and equity.

*States of Solutions participating states and lead applicant organizations include:*

**Colorado**

*Colorado Department of Health and Environment*

**Delaware**

*Delaware Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health*

**Illinois**

*Illinois Department of Public Health Center for Minority Health Services*

*Illinois Public Health Institute*

**Kentucky**

*Kentucky Department for Public Health Office of Health Equity*

**Louisiana**

*Louisiana Department of Health - Office of Public Health*

**Maine**

*Daniel Hanley Center for Health Leadership*

**Massachusetts**

*Massachusetts Department of Public Health*

*Massachusetts Asthma Action Partnership (MAAP) at Health Resources in Action*

**Michigan**

*Michigan Department of Civil Rights*

**Minnesota**

*Minnesota Department of Health*

*Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition*

**New York**

*Health Research Incorporated/NYSDOH*

**North Carolina**

*North Carolina Alliance for Health*

**Pennsylvania**

*Pennsylvania Department of Health*

**Rhode Island**

*Rhode Island Department of Health*

**South Carolina**

*South Carolina Hospital Research and Education Foundation*

## **Wisconsin**

*healthTIDE Network*

*Waisman Center University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, UW-Madison*

### **About the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI)**

IHI is a leader in health and health care improvement worldwide. For more than 25 years, IHI has partnered with visionaries, leaders, and frontline practitioners around the globe to spark bold, inventive ways to improve the health of individuals and populations. Recognized as an innovator, convener, trustworthy partner, and driver of results, IHI is the first place to turn for expertise, help, and encouragement for anyone, anywhere who wants to change health and health care profoundly for the better. Learn more at [ihi.org](http://ihi.org).

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