



NGA Center for
BEST PRACTICES

Providing Ideas that Work



Services

FOR GOVERNORS AND THEIR STAFF

OUR Mission

The NGA Center for Best Practices is the nation's only dedicated consulting firm for governors and their key policy staff. The Center's mission is to develop and implement innovative solutions to public policy challenges. Through the staff of the Center, governors and their policy advisors can:

- ▶ **quickly learn about what works**, what doesn't, and what lessons can be learned from other governors grappling with the same problems;
- ▶ **obtain assistance** in designing and implementing new programs or in making current programs more effective;
- ▶ **receive up-to-date, comprehensive information** about what is happening in other state capitals and in Washington, D.C. so governors are aware of cutting edge policies; and
- ▶ **learn about emerging national trends** and their implications for states so governors can prepare to meet future demands.



NGA CENTER

Divisions

The Center is organized into five divisions with some collaborative projects across all divisions.



EDUCATION provides information on best practices in early childhood, elementary and secondary, and postsecondary education, including teacher quality, high school redesign, reading, access to and success in postsecondary education, extra learning opportunities, and school readiness.



HEALTH covers a broad range of health financing, service delivery, and policy issues, including containing health-care costs, health insurance trends and innovations, state initiatives in public health, aging and long-term care, disease management and health care information technology, healthcare quality, mental health and substance abuse, and health workforce.



HOMELAND SECURITY & TECHNOLOGY

informs states of best practices in homeland security policy and implementation including bioterrorism, critical infrastructure protection, energy assurance, information sharing, intelligence and emergency management, and government use of information technology.



ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES

conducts analysis of state and federal policies affecting environmental protection, air quality and greenhouse gases, transportation and land use, housing and community design, energy infrastructure, energy efficiency and renewable energy, water and coastal resources, brownfields, military bases, cleanup and stewardship of nuclear weapons sites, and working lands conservation.



SOCIAL, ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE PROGRAMS

focuses on best practices, policy options, and service delivery improvements across a range of current and emerging issues, including economic development, workforce development, employment services, criminal justice, prisoner reentry, and social services for children, youth, low-income families, and people with disabilities.



OUR Services

Provide Tailored Technical Assistance

Using on-site problem analysis, information on best practices, and advice from colleagues across the country, the Center brings assistance directly to governors' offices. Center policy experts can:

- ▶ **deliver** confidential, quick-response memoranda on specific requests about best practices;
- ▶ **analyze** problems on-site with governors' program and policy staff;
- ▶ **convene** meetings of policymakers, program officials, and outside scholars;
- ▶ **facilitate** strategic planning processes, serving as objective outside experts; and
- ▶ **match** experts and peers across state boundaries to share common experiences and concerns.

Identify and Share Best Practices

The Center tracks, evaluates, and disseminates information on state innovations and best practices by:

- ▶ **surveying states** on key issues and providing assessments of current activities for individual states;
- ▶ **cataloging innovative programs** and sharing this information via reports, briefs, and a variety of online and printed materials; and
- ▶ **hosting seminars, academies, and workshops** around the country to allow state executives to share ideas and experiences.

Serve as Information Clearinghouse

The Center disseminates vital information, including conference proceedings, reports, and information on gubernatorial initiatives, through the following tools:

The NGA Center Web site (www.nga.org/center) houses an array of timely publications and briefs on key state policy issues. These resources are always accessible online or available gratis to governors and their staff.

Front & Center, the NGA Center's weekly electronic magazine, prepared exclusively for governors' policy staff, highlights the latest information on critical trends, policies, and issues affecting states.

NGA CENTER DIVISIONS AND ISSUE AREAS

EDUCATION

- Adolescent Literacy
- Early Childhood Education
- Extra Learning Opportunities
- High School Redesign Leadership
- Performance-Based Budgeting
- Postsecondary Education Productivity
- School Choice
- School Finance
- Special Education
- Standards, Assessment, Accountability
- Teacher Quality and Compensation
- Technology

SOCIAL, ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE PROGRAMS

- Adult Skill Upgrading and Lifelong Learning
- Affordable Housing
- Aging out of Foster Care
- Aligning Workforce and Economic Development
- Career and Technical Education
- Child and Family Services
- Criminal Justice
- Employment Services
- Entrepreneurship
- Incumbent Worker Training
- Juvenile Justice
- Low-Income Families
- Marriage and Family Formation
- Performance Management
- Prisoner Reentry
- Program Integration
- Rural Development
- Sector-Based Workforce Strategies
- State Workforce Systems
- Technology-Based Economic Development
- Unemployment Insurance
- Welfare Reform
- Workforce Investment Act (WIA)
- Youth Development

HEALTH

- Adolescent Health
- Aging
- Cancer
- Disease Management
- Health Care Cost Containment
- Health Care Quality
- Health Information Technology

- Health Insurance Coverage
- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Compliance
- Health Workforce
- Healthy Community Environments
- Long-Term Care
- Low-Income Families
- Maternal and Child Health
- Medicaid
- Medical Malpractice Insurance
- Medicare
- Mental Health
- Obesity
- Pharmaceuticals
- Public Health and Disease Prevention
- State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)
- Substance Abuse
- Tobacco Prevention and Control

ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES

- Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases
- Brownfields
- Cleanup of the Nuclear Weapons Complex
- Community Design
- Energy Infrastructure and Siting
- Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
- Healthy Communities
- Housing/Community Development
- Military Bases
- Resource Management
- Transportation Planning and Land Use
- Water and Coastal Resources
- Working Lands Conservation

HOMELAND SECURITY & TECHNOLOGY

- Agroterrorism
- Bioterrorism Preparedness
- Critical Infrastructure Protection
- Energy Assurance
- Emergency Management
- Information Sharing
- Information Technology
- Integrated Information Systems
- Intelligence
- Interoperability
- Nuclear and Radiological Terrorism
- Telecommunications and Digital Infrastructure



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