**National Governors Association Center for Best Practices**

**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS**

***State Retreats to Develop Actions to Address PFAS***

***REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS:*  Release Date: February 5, 2024**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**Purpose:** To help Governors use the latest science to develop or improve state plans to address PFAS in the most efficient, effective and equitable way.

**Key Dates:**

Bidders Calls**February 14th 3 pm ET**

**February 20th 3 pm ET**

*States are encouraged to submit questions in advance to Jessica Rackley at the NGA Center for Best Practices at* *jrackley@nga.org**.*

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| Applications Due:                     **March 5, 2024 9:00 pm EST/6:00 pm PST** |

Selection Announcement:          **March 15, 2024**

*NGA Center will notify selected states followed by a public release*

Learning Lab Date:                     Summer 2024, (2 days plus travel time)

State 1: May/June

State 2: mid-August/September

Eligibility:                                   States and U.S. Territories with full NGA membership benefits. *One application per state.*

**NGA CENTER STATE RETREAT ON PFAS DETECTION, REMEDIATION AND MESSAGING**

On behalf of the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center), we are pleased to invite your state to apply for a new State Retreat opportunity for states interested in applying the most current science to support policies, programs, and action to address PFAS. This project will provide the two state teams selected with guidance from national experts, assist the state team in developing a state action plan to address PFAS, and provide follow-up technical assistance.

**The State Retreat Opportunity: Overview and Background**
The NGA Center is soliciting for individual state teams, to be led by a relevant policy staff member from the Governor’s office, and 2 to 5 other state designees to provide state input on the content for an in-person retreat to be held in late Spring or Summer of 2024. The NGA Center has funding to work with two states on their own respective PFAS strategies. The State Retreats are a joint effort between the NGA Center and the American Association for the Advancement of Science’s Center for Scientific Evidence in Public Issues (AAAS EPI Center) to help the two selected states develop effective and equitable plans and policies to address PFAS contamination. The impact of these two in-state workshops will be multiplied by sharing the information and strategies with other states through the NGA Center’s Environment Network.

The two State Retreats will convene state and national experts with an interagency state team and other relevant state staff working on this issue to examine the latest science and best approaches taken nationwide from leading states and scientists to address PFAS. At the two separate convenings, the NGA Center and AAAS EPI Center will assist the participating state teams in creating an action plan to advance a policy, program or funding effort that will support priority PFAS actions needed in the state involving identification, cleanup, destruction, exposure prevention, equity, funding, public communications, and other areas. State goals may include, but are not limited to, helping Environmental Justice Communities test for PFAS and fund treatment and cleanup, managing contaminated biosolids, addressing private wells, destruction, disposal and pollution prevention, and other topics. The NGA Center and the AAAS EPI Center will work with the two selected state teams to develop agendas and topics for their own respective in-state convenings to ensure state needs are met.

The two participating states will be selected based on a high likelihood of taking follow up action including implementation of the action plan. State teams will be led by Governors’ office staff to ensure high-level participation and commitment to action. They may be joined by health, water, environment, natural resources or agriculture departments and other relevant non-governmental groups depending on the policies the Governor would like to advance.

There is no cost to states for holding this meeting, or for the follow-up technical assistance, although states are expected to provide a no-cost meeting room. States are expected to participate in pre- and post-event surveys as well as four post-event follow-up meetings throughout the year after the State retreat. AAAS will provide meals and refreshments for the meeting as well as a travel stipend for ground transportation. Travel and hotel accommodations for guest speakers will also be provided by AAAS.

**Bidders Calls**

The NGA Center will host two bidders calls for interested states that would like more information on the state retreat including the application process, action plans, content and required time commitment, etc. The bidders calls are scheduled for:

* **February 14th 3 pm ET**
	+ Zoom Link: <https://nga-org.zoom.us/j/99969781572>
	+ Join by phone: +13052241968, Meeting ID: 99969781572# US
* **February 20th 3 pm ET**
	+ Zoom Link: <https://nga-org.zoom.us/j/97499178260>
	+ Join by phone: +16469313860, Meeting ID: 97499178260# US

**Application Instructions**

To apply for this state retreat, please create a 2-4 page word document with the information requested below and e-mail it to Jessica Rackley at jrackley@nga.org. Applications are due **March 5, 2024 at 9:00 PM EST/ 6:00 PM PST**. Please contact Jessica Rackley at 202-624-7789 or jrackley@nga.org for more information.

**Application:**

1. **Name of state:**
2. **Applicant name and email address**:
3. **Core Team Members:**

*List the names, titles, agencies or organizations, and contact information of the core team members. Your core team should consist of between 3 and 6 members and must include at least one representative from your state's Governor's Office. Please indicate which team member will be the team lead, and which team member represents the Governor’s office. Participants may include, but are not limited to, representatives from: Environment, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Health Departments, relevant state agencies, the state legislative branch and other relevant stakeholders.*

1. **Background & Objectives:**

*Briefly describe objectives for the state team attending the State retreat, including a brief description of the specific PFAS policies or programs the state hopes to advance, and whether the state has taken any prior action to adopt the policy or program they wish to advance. Prior action on PFAS is not required to apply. (suggested length 2-3 paragraphs)*

1. **Barriers:**

*Briefly describe current regulatory, state statute, state policy, or other barriers to the deployment of PFAS policies or programs in the state. Briefly describe how the State retreat may help the state overcome these barriers and achieve its objectives. (suggested length 2-3 paragraphs)*

1. **Expertise Needed:**

*Please list the types of experts from which the state would like to hear including other states, federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private sector/industry representatives. (suggested length 1 to 2 paragraphs or a bulleted list)*

1. **Proposed Dates:**

*Please identify two consecutive workdays in May/June 2024 or mid-August/September (4 total dates) that work well for your team.*

1. **Other Factors:**

*Is there anything else that you would like the NGA Center’s and AAAS EPI Center’s team to know about the context surrounding PFAS detection, remediation and messaging in your state as we review your application? Please type “NA” if not applicable.*