

# The Heartland Regional Genetics Network

Funding Cycle June 2020-May 2024

The Heartland Regional Genetics Network (HRGN) has set the goals to **continue expanding capacity to improve access to pediatric, metabolic and adult genetics services, targeting medically underserved populations that are defined by disparities in geography, socio-economic status, and race/ethnic groups, in the Heartland region.** This goal will be achieved via HRGN's specific aims and objectives.

## Aims and Objectives

**Aim 1:** Support the HRGN infrastructure to continue current work in improving access to genetic services

Objective 1a: Exploring new and enhancing existing access points or pathways to genetics services for children and adults through engaging and integrating primary care and other partners

Objective 1b: Provide resources to support early intervention, home-visiting, and public health providers

Objective 1c: To support formalized partnerships and continue to develop additional partnerships with parent organizations in each state to facilitate bidirectional trainings and resource sharing

**Aim 2:** Engage underserved communities to develop strategies in improving accessibility to genetic services based on needs and preferences specific to each community

Objective 2a: Strengthen existing ties and continue the support for infrastructure building and service capacity with partners in racial/ethnic minority and underserved communities

Objective 2b: Explore and expand engagement opportunities with American Indian/Native American (AI/NA) and African Americans communities

**Aim 3:** Implement innovative telehealth clinical genetics service delivery models and provide technical assistance, education, and training in telehealth

Objective 3a: Build on current capacity and knowledge base to expand telehealth options for pediatric, metabolic, and adult genetics patients by increasing telehealth genetics clinics

Objective 3b: Provide technical assistance, education and training in telehealth in collaboration with the Midwest Regional Genetics Network (RGN); Heartland practice partnerships and parent organizations; and genetic counseling/genetics residency programs

Objective 3c: Convene a workgroup to conduct a literature review and needs assessment for health care administrator training

**Aim 4:** Create dynamic learning communities to facilitate information exchange and knowledge sharing among genetic and non-genetic providers

Objective 4a: Offer the current ECHO series across the regions and develop new genetic ECHO sessions

Objective 4b: Offer MOC Part 4 with the Midwest RGN and Advances in Integrating Genetics into Clinical Care (AIGCC)

Objective 4c: Partner with the National Genetics Education and Family Support Center to cultivate family leaders, develop culturally and linguistically appropriate resources, and disseminate resources

**Aim 5:** Improve the quality of care in genetics and access to genetic services for patients and their families

Objective 5a: Heartland Clinical Work Group will assess barriers to genetic testing and develop a training protocol for clinics to facilitate genetic testing

Objective 5b: Provide assistance in the monitoring and reporting of quality improvement indicators on state genetic service delivery within Heartland