

2021



BECOMING A HEALTH CENTER PROGRAM LOOK-ALIKE

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Module 1



MODULE 1: What is a Health Center Look-Alike and Should I Become One?

Module 1 Notes

Lesson 1: Understanding the Health Center Program

Lesson 2: Becoming a Look-Alike

Module 1 Activity: Reflect: Strategic Questions to Consider

Is joining the Health Center Program by becoming a Look-Alike right for your organization? Take some time to consider these strategic questions. We recommend you discuss these questions with your board and other key organizational leaders. This is not an easy decision, so it's okay if it takes some time to determine your best path forward!

Why join the Health Center Program?

- What is our organization's current situation? Why is joining the Health Center Program status better than the status quo?
- What are the alternatives to joining the Health Center Program? Is continuing the status quo an option?
- If not, why not? Why is joining the Health Center Program critical to our future success?

Which Health Center Program benefits do we currently have, and which do we need?

- Do we already have access to any of the major Health Center Program benefits like enhanced reimbursement, Vaccines for Children, or National Health Service Corps access? (*refer to the online module for full list of health center program benefits*)
- If so, what other program benefits do we most need? Why do we need these?
- What would access to these benefits mean for us financially? Have we calculated this?
- How else would access to these benefits impact us and our programs, reputation, etc?
- If we only had access to the benefits available to Look-Alikes and not those limited to Health Center Program grantees, would it be enough?

What would need to change?

- How would things need to change in our organization if we were to join the Health Center Program? What clinical changes would we need to make? What governance changes would we need to make? (please note: this will be covered in greater depth in Module 2)
- Are those changes strategic? Are we ready to make those changes?

Are there are costs or impacts we have not considered?

- How much will applying to join the Health Center Program, being continuously compliant, etc. cost us?
- How will this impact other funding streams? Would any be negatively affected?
- How will this impact our Board of Directors, providers and staff, and patients and community? Are there any negative impacts to consider?

Module 1: Additional Readings/Resources

1. Summary and LAL Initial Design Description part of guidance (pgs 2-7) - <https://bphc.hrsa.gov/sites/default/files/bphc/programopportunities/lookalike/pdfs/LALidinstructions.pdf>
2. [Health Center Program Chalk Talk](#)
3. [At the Heart of a Health Center](#)
4. [Health Center Program Statute: Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act](#)
5. [National Health Center Program Data from the Uniform Data System](#)
6. [Federally Qualified Health Center Fact Sheet from CMS](#)
7. [Two Paths into the Health Center Program](#)
8. [New Access Point Awards](#)
9. [Service Area Competitions](#)
10. [Primary Health Care Digest – Past Issues and Sign-Up](#)