



Mission: Lifeline Stroke South Dakota

The Mission: Lifeline Stroke South Dakota Initiative will allow South Dakota to focus not only on the acute treatment of stroke by helping hospitals treat stroke more effectively, but it will also strive to improve stroke recovery/rehab in both our large and small communities.

- Current stroke status in the state with data.
 - Stroke is a leading cause of death and the leading cause of adult disability in South Dakota.
 - Almost 400 South Dakotans lost their lives in 2022 due to stroke, and many more have become impacted by the devastating effects.

What is *Mission: Lifeline*:

- *Mission: Lifeline* Stroke is a program for transforming stroke care by focusing efforts on connecting all the components of acute stroke care into a smoothly integrated system that reinforces use of evidence-based guidelines, measures performance, identifies gaps, and engages in improvement projects at a systems level.
- Guideline-based & Data Driven model
- The stroke system of care begins with community recognition and preparedness to identify stroke and continues all the way through hospital discharge, into rehabilitation and the initiation of secondary prevention.
- It brings together hospitals, ambulance services, non-transport medical first response agencies, emergency communications centers, emergency medical service regulatory and medical direction agencies, local government, local media, payers, and stroke rehabilitation to forge a proactive system of stroke care that saves and improves lives.

The Goal:

Mission: Lifeline Stroke will build upon the achieved by the existing South Dakota system of care networks by further strengthening the collaboration with stakeholders across the state representing hospitals, individual ambulance services, the South Dakota Department of Health, and others.

The project will enhance many critical elements of an optimal stroke system of care, including:

- Coordination of treatment guidelines for EMS and hospital personnel.

- Local plans for rapid transport and/or inter-facility transfer of stroke patients.
- Strategies for reducing barriers to access and quality of care.
- A survivor-to-survivor support network will be deployed.
- Strengthen and grow the public education focus on recognition of stroke signs and symptoms and the need to activate the 9-1-1 system.
- Ongoing clinical education and model sharing of successful strategies.
- Recruitment of stroke rehab champions to create and help implement consistent discharge and treatment protocols as well as participate in quality improvement and training measures.

Funding the Mission:

The American Heart Association has announced a statewide commitment of \$5 million for its Mission: Lifeline Stroke initiative to strengthen the full spectrum of stroke care in South Dakota. The foundation of this new initiative is a three-year grant of nearly \$4.4 million from The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust.

Frequently Asked Questions

How many years is the funding for?

The \$5 million in funding will be spent over three years (2024–2027). EMS and hospital Infrastructure/Education will comprise the bulk of the funding. This grant will conclude June 30, 2027.

How will we measure the impact of the funding and the Mission Lifeline program?

Hospitals will be participating in the AHA/ASA Get With The Guidelines® Stroke Registry which tracks all acute stroke patients from first medical contact through hospital discharge. This data collection will support standardization, compliance, and quality improvement review, as well as help guide education.

What other states have done this program and what has been the outcome?

North Dakota, Nebraska, Montana, and Iowa have had or are currently in similar initiatives in differing phases of implementation. They have had great success with bridging the gaps, including facilitating clinical education, building statewide consensus on protocols utilizing the current guidelines, and improving public awareness.

What are the participation deliverables expected by my facility?

Program Participant agrees to complete the following Initiative activities:

1. Identify a main point of contact who will participate in the Initiative. This contact will be invited to participate in various task forces and/or subcommittees during the initiative. The level of participation is completely dependent on the bandwidth of the participating facility. You will receive information on upcoming learning

collaboratives and other education opportunities.

2. Attend initiative-related educational opportunities such as workshops, conferences, and trainings. There are multiple sources of education for participants all funded by this grant with no additional costs to participants. This includes but is not limited to Advanced Stroke Life Support certification (ASLS), online self-paced modules, live and recorded webinars, and podcasts. We do not expect participants to engage in every offering, but we try to make many high-quality education offerings available to increase stroke knowledge, skills, and confidence.
3. Develop at least two local community-based public awareness activities.
4. Enter data into the Get With The Guidelines® Stroke Registry. By tracking our statewide data, we can develop educational resources, update protocols, and ensure that facilities are providing the best possible guideline-based care for South Dakota's stroke patients.
5. Complete project specific milestones that aim to set South Dakota up for future successes in stroke system of care work, including outreach to regional systems, closing the feedback loop with referring hospitals and EMS, and formalizing a South Dakota Stroke System of Care with a plan for statewide meetings, data sharing, education, and designation of leadership.

What is the benefit of participating?

Facilities will receive participation incentive funding. Other benefits include but are not limited to the following:

- Site-specific quality improvement support throughout the entirety of this initiative.
- Working with leading national and local experts in neurology and acute and post-acute stroke care to build tools and share/create best practices specific to South Dakota and the unique challenges South Dakota providers face.
- Opportunities for statewide and national recognition in acute stroke care.
- Increased collaboration between your facility and local and state system of care organizations and facilities, e.g., the Mission: Lifeline South Dakota Stroke Task Force, receiving hospitals, referring hospitals, local outpatient providers, prehospital services, etc.

Who should we contact to be considered for this initiative?

If your hospital is interested in being considered for this initiative, contact the following AHA representative:

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