



Over-the-Counter (OTC) Contraception Policy Academy

Request for Applications

Summary Information

Purpose: The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) is currently accepting applications for participation in the Over-the-Counter (OTC) Contraception Policy Academy. The OTC Contraception Policy Academy curriculum and program materials will enable participants to recognize, assess, and apply policy levers to increase access, affordability, and awareness of OTC contraception within participants' jurisdictions.

Application Deadline: January 10, 2025

Selection Announcement Date: January 17, 2025

Policy Academy Timeline: February 2025 - November 2025

Eligibility: All state, Washington, D.C., territory, and freely associated state health agencies and their partners

ASTHO Point of Contact: Please contact ContraceptionAccess@astho.org with any questions and include "RFA: OTC Contraception Policy Academy" in the subject line.

Program Description

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) is currently accepting applications for participation in the Over the Counter (OTC) Contraception Policy Academy.

On July 13, 2023, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [granted approval for Opill](#) (norgestrel) tablets as the first daily oral contraceptive available for nonprescription use in the United States. State and territorial health agencies (S/THAs) are an essential component to maximizing the success of the rollout of OTC oral contraceptives, like Opill, and ensuring that individuals who face the most barriers can access the contraception they need when they need it. S/THAs are trusted sources of public health information by individuals and communities and have the influence and authority to establish, modify, and implement policies and programs essential to contraceptive access.

The OTC Contraception Policy Academy is designed to help state and territorial governmental public health leaders, and their partners, to develop the skills and competencies required to advance and support state-level policies and use those to engage in policy-related work. Through this policy academy, participants will become familiar with and gain hands-on experience utilizing policy

development frameworks, such as the CDC Policy Process, to identify key issues and opportunities for OTC contraception access, affordability, and awareness in their community and respond using appropriate policy interventions.

Program Elements and Expectations

Application Timeline:

- Application Period: November 11, 2024 – January 10, 2025
- Notification of Acceptance: January 17, 2025

Policy Academy Timeline:

All applicants should hold the following dates for required policy academy sessions. In order to gain maximum benefit from the program, participants should plan to attend all four virtual sessions, which will be 90-minutes in length and will take place from 2:00pm – 3:30pm ET.

- b. Session 1: Thursday, February 13, 2025
- c. Session 2: Thursday, May 21, 2025
- d. Session 3: Thursday, August 7, 2025
- e. Session 4: Thursday, November 6, 2025

OTC Contraception Policy Academy Objectives and Outcomes

This non-monetary opportunity will support up to four (4) recipient jurisdictions to participate in a Policy Academy that will enhance OTC contraception access, affordability, and awareness through policy intervention.

The Policy Academy will provide education and capacity building for policymaking that is tailored to the role of state/territorial health agencies and their partners, while also providing the necessary technical assistance, subject matter expertise, and project management needed to move the ideas and goals of each state team into feasible and impactful actions. The OTC Contraception Policy Academy will feature both required live collaborative sessions focused on advancing OTC contraception policy and optional on-demand sessions about the basics of policymaking.

By the conclusion of the Policy Academy, each participating team will develop a policy project based on what would be most beneficial in their jurisdiction and have engaged in the following outcomes:

- Examined policy levers/options to increase access, affordability, and awareness of OTC oral contraception.
- Coordinated and collaborated with other state agencies and key stakeholders.
- Identified specific goals related to OTC contraception access, affordability, and awareness policies that are aligned with barriers and opportunities within their jurisdictions.
- Developed an approach to achieve identified goals, key steps, and considerations needed to move a policy from idea to action.

Teams participating in the OTC Contraception Policy Academy are expected to:

- Assemble a multidisciplinary team including a team leader (the primary point of contact and drives project momentum) and at least two additional state/jurisdictional participants who are critical to OTC contraception access, affordability, and awareness.
- Identify a specific OTC contraception policy and plan steps towards implementation as part of the Policy Academy.
- Participate in 4 virtual policy academy sessions over the project period.
- Participate in monthly, ASTHO-facilitated state-team sessions to develop a state/jurisdiction action-oriented workplan and identify policy and technical assistance needs in between Policy Academy full cohort sessions.
- Receive federal, national, and state/territorial resources and materials to support OTC contraception policy implementation in your jurisdiction.
- Participate in ASTHO process and outcomes evaluations (limited).

Selection Criteria:

Applicants are asked to complete the Application Worksheet (p. 4) and demonstrate:

- Support from agency and division leadership for teams to engage in OTC Contraception Policy Academy activities and signed Commitment of Collaboration from program leadership (see application below).
- Commitment from partners critical to advancing OTC contraception in the participant’s jurisdiction to participate in Policy Academy activities (see application below).
- Interest in peer-to-peer learning and collaboration to improve OTC contraception access, affordability, and awareness in the applicant’s state or jurisdiction.
- Interest in gaining or refining knowledge, advancing policies, and implementing OTC contraception policy in the applicant’s state or jurisdiction.

OTC Contraception Policy Academy Teams

Each state/territorial applicant should have at least three (3) participants on their policy academy team. Team members are expected to participate in all OTC Contraception Policy Academy sessions, monthly state/jurisdiction planning calls, and contribute to the policy project. Policy Academy participants can include anyone from the state or jurisdiction that will help advance OTC contraception access, affordability, and awareness in the state or jurisdiction including, but not limited to, representatives from the state pharmacist association, Medicaid, and advocacy organizations.

OTC Contraception Policy Academy Application Form

Please copy the application below and return a signed Word or PDF document to the OTC Contraception team at ContraceptionAccess@astho.org by January 10, 2025. Please include “RFA: OTC Contraception Policy Academy” in the subject line.

Applicant Information

Please add additional team member boxes if the number of team members exceeds five (5).

Team Lead (Primary Contact)

Name:
Agency/Organization:
Title:
E-mail:

Team Member 2

Name:
Agency/Organization:
Title:
E-mail:

Team Member 3

Name:
Agency/Organization:
Title:
E-mail:

Team Member 4 (Optional)

Name:
Agency/Organization:
Title:
E-mail:

Team Member 5 (Optional)

Name:
Agency/Organization:
Title:
E-mail:

State/Territorial Team Interest

Please keep responses to three (3) total pages.

Please explain your state/jurisdiction’s current work or interest in increasing access, affordability, and awareness of OTC contraception.
Please explore your state/jurisdiction’s current opportunities and barriers in increasing access, affordability, and awareness of OTC contraception. What new roles or skills do you need to advance policy for OTC contraception access, affordability, and awareness for your jurisdiction?
Identify three key partners you consider essential to the agency’s work related to this policy area:
Please describe how participation in this Policy Academy will support your current and future OTC contraception access, affordability, and awareness goals for your program or agency. What would your agency like to get out of participation in this Policy Academy?

Statement of Participation

Please read the statement of participation and provide signature by project and program leadership below.

Commitment to Collaboration

In the spirit of collaboration, our team is committed to working with ASTHO. In this regard, our state/territorial health agency offers to:

- Assemble a multidisciplinary team including a team leader and at least two additional state/jurisdictional participants critical to OTC contraception access, affordability, and awareness.

- Identify a specific OTC Contraception policy and plan steps towards implementation of this policy as part of the Policy Academy.
- Participate in 4 virtual policy academy sessions over the project period.
- Participate in monthly, ASTHO-facilitated state team sessions to develop a state/jurisdiction action-oriented workplan and identify policy and technical assistance needs in between Policy Academy full cohort sessions.
- Receive federal, national, and state/territorial resources and materials to support OTC contraception policy implementation in your jurisdiction.
- Participate in ASTHO process and outcomes evaluations (limited).

Project team lead name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Program or division lead name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____