

Seven Core Elements of POLST Sustainability for POLST Programs

Proper implementation of POLST over the long term requires a strong, neutral organizational home to serve as the central “go to” place for “all things POLST.” It is the responsibility of this organizational home to maintain the integrity of the POLST form content, coordinate public policy, monitor and train on form completion, and provide quality oversight. This requires a commitment and vision on the part of the organizational home. The seven (7) elements are not listed in priority order recognizing that the order may be impacted by existing resources and state laws. However, #2, Organizational Home, should be addressed early in building your state specific program.

- 1) **Leadership**
 - a) Succession planning
 - b) Depth
 - c) Commitment
 - d) Experience
 - e) Strong Physician Champion(s)
 - f) Strong Systems Champions
- 2) **Organizational Home**
 - a) Collaborative
 - b) Sponsorship fit with mission
 - c) Coalition building
 - d) Maintaining the energy of your coalition
 - e) Meaningful relationship with the NPPTF
- 3) **Building a Sustainable Statewide Coalition**
 - a) Include Key Stakeholders including the patient’s voice
 - b) Effective structure and communication (including communicating about impact)
 - c) Regularly scheduled meetings
 - d) Collaboration between professionals who complete POLST forms and those who take action on the orders
 - e) Sustaining engagement (data/success driven)
- 4) **Legislation – Regulatory**
 - a) Assure accurate framing of POLST as a person centered protocol
 - b) Relationship with EMS and related state agencies and other entities
 - c) Established and ongoing relationships with key policymakers
- 5) **Mobilizing Educational Resources**
 - a) Volunteers
 - b) Infrastructure
 - c) Communication networks
 - d) Develop and disseminate educational materials
- 6) **Secure Financial Support**
 - a) Identifying a strategy for and develop the skills to seek financial support, such as donations and grants*
 - b) Courting individual donors
 - c) Resource: www.unitedphilforum.org/.
- 7) **Measuring Quality Performance and Communicating Impact**
 - a) Monitoring/data collection
 - b) Updating
 - c) Effectiveness
 - d) With the goal of improving the effectiveness of POLST to assure that the preferences of persons with advanced illness and frailty are accurately and consistently honored

*Types of foundations to look for grants include:

- 1) Community Foundations: generally independent registered philanthropic institutions serving geographically defined territory, typically a city or administrative area (e.g., county, region).
- 2) Conversion Foundations: When tax-exempt entities (such as traditional non-profit hospitals and health organizations) are sold (more recently to become for-profit entities), federal law requires proceeds from the sale of those assets be directed towards charitable purposes. A conversion foundation, which is private, is one such charitable purpose.