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Active People, Healthy NationSM Walkability Action Institute

State Request for Funding Assistance (RFA) Application

APPLICATION DUE DATE: December 12, 2025 by 11:59 p.m. ET via electronic submission through the [Application Link](#).

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS: The Application can be viewed in RFA Appendix A and accessed on the [WAI webpage](#) in Word format. Complete the application and submit electronically (Word or PDF format) via the [Application Link](#).

A. PURPOSE

The National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD), in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity (DNPAO), Physical Activity and Health Branch, seeks applications from state health departments and/or additional entities who are currently receiving funding through the CDC's State Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) program and the High Obesity Program (HOP) for participation in the Active People, Healthy NationSM Walkability Action Institute (WAI). Herein referred to as Interested State Entities, states will apply to receive NACDD funding and programmatic assistance in the implementation of the Active People, Healthy Nation WAI in two prospective state locations for up to eight local/regional interdisciplinary teams per state.

The purpose of the WAI is to prepare interdisciplinary teams from Interested State Entities to pursue policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) supports for walkable and movable built environments through improved community and transportation design. The action institute will provide interdisciplinary teams with the most up-to-date academic and applied learning methods and will reinforce and support implementation of significant national public health policy statements promoting walking and walkability such as the *Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans, 2nd edition*; *Step It Up! The Surgeon General's Call to Action (SG CTA) to Promote Walking and Walkable Communities*; and *The Community Preventive Services Task Force's Built Environment Recommendation to Increase Physical Activity*. NACDD and CDC are interested in applicant states who can reinforce 100% participation of local/regional teams in all virtual/in-

person WAI course dates, the achievement of all project deliverables outlined in the RFA, and the pursuance of measurable PSE outcomes after attending the action institute.

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Regular physical activity can lead to reductions in chronic disease risk and burden. Walking is an easy, cost-efficient, and common form of physical activity that can help many people meet the *Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans, 2nd Edition* and obtain health benefits. Most people can walk including many people with disabilities who are able to walk or move with assistive devices such as wheelchairs or walkers. Communities that are more walkable and movable are inherently more conducive to physical activity, movement, and active travel to and from community destinations. Improved walkability and movability can make communities safer, support social cohesion, reduce air pollution, and benefit local economies. To promote walkability and movability throughout the country, NACDD and CDC will partner with two Interested State Entities and up to eight respective locations/regions within each selected state to achieve PSE outcomes that create safe opportunities for physical activity and active travel, improve walkability and movability, and support community design to promote physical activity for all.

NACDD seeks applications from Interested State Entities within any of the states currently receiving funding through CDC's SPAN and HOP programs to participate in the WAI project. View eligible [SPAN](#) and [HOP](#) participants.

The selected State Entities and the respective local/regional teams will commit to participating in each of the following WAI project activities (reference Section E for full list of project deliverables):

- Identify up to eight local/regional interdisciplinary teams (selected State Entities)
- Attend to-be-decided (TBD) pre-course webinar(s) to learn about course expectations and deliverables, learn about photovoice as one example of community assessment, discuss photovoice assignments, and participate in team photovoice presentations (selected State Entities and local/regional Team Leads required; additional team members encouraged)
- Attend 100% of the pre-in-person TBD virtual photovoice sessions (2-3), TBD two (2)-day in-person action institute sessions, and follow-up TBD virtual training sessions (5-7) (selected State Entities and all team members)
- Develop Team Action Plan inclusive of evidence-based PSE strategies to improve active travel to community destinations (all teams to develop their own plan)
- Begin implementation of action plan strategies (all teams to implement their respective plan)

Each local/regional team must include at least four, but no more than six, team members. Either the required Public Health representative or the required Planning representative for each local/regional team will assume the role of Team Lead and serve as the primary point-of-

contact for NACDD throughout the project. Refer to Section C for more details on the “required” and “additional” team make-up. In addition to overseeing team participation in project-related activities, Team Leads will also:

- Participate in a potential TBD project orientation call with NACDD
- Complete a Team Contact Chart
- Assist NACDD with annual progress reporting activities

The selected State Entities will commit to identifying and inviting four to six representatives to participate in a state team. The purpose of the state team is to provide state-specific subject matter expertise and/or technical assistance to the community teams participating in the WAI. Representatives should be from various agencies or departments at the state-level (e.g., state Department of Transportation) with a role in the policies and systems that shape how communities are designed and built to create opportunities for all people to walk, roll, or take transit to places they need or want to get to everyday (e.g., grocery stores, medical visits, jobs, school). State team representatives may also be from other organizations that can provide technical support to local/regional teams.

Format:

The WAI will provide applied learning and skill-building instruction to support achievement of related PSE strategies for increasing walkability and movability, including design and infrastructure improvements, as supported by the CDC’s Active People, Healthy Nation initiative and other well-known public health policy guidance documents referenced in Section A. The institute will be facilitated by a nationally renowned cadre of Faculty within a structured, team-based, and practical learning atmosphere. The action institute will occur on TBD dates, jointly decided by NACDD and the selected State Entities.

This opportunity will use the WAI hybrid model. The hybrid model includes a multi-day approach that leverages traditional learning methods with experiential learning and skill-building. The hybrid course model consists of pre-in-person virtual sessions, completion of a photovoice homework assignment, two full in-person days, and a series of virtual training sessions (approximately 5-7 virtual sessions). The virtual training sessions can be customized according to need and preference over week(s) or month(s). In addition, there will be at least one additional pre-course orientation webinar, applicable team homework assignments, and the required development and submission of a post-course Team Action Plan from each participating team.

The RFA provides for a shared budget agreement between NACDD and the selected State Entities, whereby NACDD commits to funding most WAI project costs including, but not limited to, Faculty payment and travel reimbursement, WAI course supplies, NACDD staff travel reimbursement, and related project management costs. The selected State Entities are expected to support costs associated with travel reimbursement of the attending local/regional teams and meeting space/audio-visual equipment rental costs. In addition, the selected State

Entities are encouraged, although not required, to provide mini grants to attending local/regional teams following course participation to support implementation of their respective action plans. There is no registration cost for institute attendance.

C. ELIGIBILITY and TEAM MAKE-UP

Any state that is currently receiving funding through CDC's SPAN or HOP is eligible to apply for the state-based Active People, Healthy Nation WAI project opportunity.

While any eligible Interested State Entities may apply, priority in scoring and selection will be given to applicants who have not participated in a CDC/DNPAO-supported state-based WAI in the last three years.

Selection of the State Entities will be based on the successful combination of the following criteria:

- Demonstration of past, current, and/or future PSE efforts focusing on improved walkability, movability, and active travel through community, land use, and transportation design across the state:
 - Demonstrated capacity and level of readiness to stimulate macro-level PSE changes
 - Ability to focus on specific population groups and places that experience the greatest need
 - Capacity to assist respective locations/regions with interdisciplinary team formation
- Demonstration of past, current, and/or future interdisciplinary state- and local-level collaborations for improving walkability, movability, and active travel through community, land use, and transportation design:
 - Ability to form an interdisciplinary state-level team to participate in the multi-day WAI, comprised of Public Health, Planning, Transportation, and additional related partners
 - Ability to build state-level capacity for assisting locations/regions with short-, intermediate, and long-term PSE implementation

Once State Entities are selected, NACDD will work directly with the selected State Entities for formation of up to eight local/regional interdisciplinary participant teams in each state. In the application process, Interested State Entities must acknowledge and agree to the following local/regional team make-up criteria:

- Preferred teams will include four-to-six individuals each, with four of the prospective team members representing the following required team positions:
 - Public Health representative
 - Planning representative
 - Transportation representative (preferably in engineering*)

- Elected official with voting, programmatic, and/or policy decision-making capabilities pertaining to walkability, movability, active living, community development or redevelopment, healthy community design, and/or transportation design
- Teams may have one-to-two additional team members each, representing any of the following partner disciplines:
 - Business/Industry
 - Community/Economic Development
 - Education/Academia
 - Parks, Recreation, and Trails
 - Public Housing
 - Public Transit
 - Law enforcement
 - Volunteer/nonprofit walkability-related advocacy organizations or foundations
 - Others (Note that NACDD will work directly with selected State Entities for approving additional team member affiliations and disciplines)

*It is strongly recommended that the transportation professional, or one of the additional team members (for example, the "required" elected official or an "additional" team member), have an engineering background and/or infrastructure-focused responsibility, such as a Director of Public Works or related position. In the past, teams that have included engineering and/or public works expertise and perspective on the team have benefitted greatly. See Appendix B for descriptions of the required and additional team members.

D. ANTICIPATED TIMELINE and DESCRIPTION

The anticipated WAI application and project timeline and description is detailed in Appendix C.

- NACDD/CDC will announce the state-based Active People, Healthy Nation WAI RFA opportunity on Monday, November 10, 2025.
- NACDD/CDC will co-host an Informational Webinar on Monday, November 17, 2025 from 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. ET. [REGISTER for the Informational Webinar](#).
- Interested State Entity applications will be due by 11:59 p.m. ET on Friday, December 12, 2025 via electronic submission through the [Application Link](#). The Application can be viewed in RFA Appendix A and accessed on the [WAI webpage](#) in Word format. Complete the application and submit electronically (Word or PDF format) via the [Application Link](#).
- NACDD will select two State Entities. Announcements will be made between December 19 - 31, 2025 (anticipated), for a project period beginning on January 5, 2026 (anticipated) and ending no later than July 31, 2026. Upon selection and once WAI project planning commences in early 2026, NACDD and the selected State Entities will collaborate in the co-planning and development of the full WAI course.

NACDD has established a National WAI Alumni Network Community of Practice (CoP) to foster ongoing sharing, learning, networking, and mentoring. The selected State Entities and their respective local/regional teams will be invited to join the virtual group following successful WAI course completion.

NACDD will also establish a progress reporting mechanism for local/regional Team Leads to report on team action plan outcomes to NACDD beyond the current project year.

E. PROJECT DELIVERABLES

The required deliverables for the Active People, Healthy Nation WAI are bulleted below:

Deliverables to be achieved during application process:

- Commitment to work collaboratively with NACDD and CDC for the period of January 5 – July 31, 2026 to plan and implement the state-based WAI course
- Commitment to fund the travel reimbursement of local/regional participant teams
- Commitment to fund the meeting space rental and audio-visual equipment rental for the WAI course
- Commitment to recruit at least four, but no more than eight, local/regional interdisciplinary participant teams for the WAI course and satisfy the required team positions of public health, planning, transportation, and elected official representatives
- Commitment to recruit at least four representatives to participate on the state team for the WAI course
- Commitment to provide technical assistance and support to participant teams in the development and submission of unified team action plans

Deliverables to be achieved upon selection of State Entities:

- Establish routine bimonthly meeting correspondence with NACDD for the duration of the project period (January 5 – July 31, 2026)
- Provide technical assistance and capacity-building support to at least four, but no more than eight, local communities/regions in the formation of an interdisciplinary participant team
- Attend TBD pre-course webinar(s) to learn about course expectations and deliverables (selected State Entities and local/regional Team Leads required; additional team members encouraged)
- Attend 100% of the sessions at the pre-in person virtual photovoice sessions (approximately 2-3 virtual sessions), the TBD two-day action institute, and related follow-up virtual training sessions (approximately 5-7 virtual sessions) (selected State Entities and all team members)

- Provide technical assistance and support to local/regional teams in the initial and ongoing implementation of action plan strategies, as needed
- Voluntarily participate in NACDD's National WAI Alumni Network CoP following successful completion of the WAI course to foster ongoing peer engagement, sharing, mentoring, and learning
- Assist NACDD with local/regional teams' participation in the annual reporting of related walkability and movability outcomes

F. APPLICATION SUBMISSION PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS

Interested State Entities can view the Application in RFA Appendix A and access it on the [WAI webpage](#) in Word format. Complete the Application and submit it electronically (Word or PDF format) via the [Application Link](#) by or before **11:59 p.m. ET on Friday, December 12, 2025**. Applications submitted after this deadline will not be reviewed.

- The formatting of the Application Form should remain unchanged.
- The Application should not exceed seven (7) pages.

The Application Form allows for Interested State Entities to demonstrate readiness and ability to host a state-based WAI course model; demonstrate financial need for this opportunity; describe how WAI participation will augment statewide physical activity goals; and overall, describe how they will satisfy the project deliverables within the project timeline (January 5 - July 31, 2026).

G. SELECTION PROCESS

NACDD will select two State Entities. All applications will be scored and reviewed by representatives of NACDD, CDC, and members of the WAI Faculty team. The selection committee reserves the right to select State Entities who demonstrate increased readiness for statewide hosting and implementation. Priority in scoring and selection will be given to Interested State Entity applicants who have not participated in a CDC/DNPAO-supported WAI in the last three years.

H. NACDD COMMITMENT

NACDD commits to providing regular and consistent communication, consultation, project assistance, and support to the selected State Entities via email, one-on-one conference/Zoom calls, group webinars, in-person at the action institute, and linkages to national expertise in accordance with the deliverables described in Section E and per the request of local/regional participant teams.

I. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE RFA

- Visit the [NACDD WAI](#) project webpage to download the RFA (inclusive of Appendix A, Application Form; Appendix B, Description of Local/Regional Required and Additional Team Representatives; and Appendix C, WAI Project Timeline) and the Application Form. The project webpage will also contain the Application Submission Link and host a list of [frequently asked questions \(FAQ\)](#). The FAQ will be updated throughout the application process.
 - Learn more about [NACDD](#).
- For questions about the RFA application process, first access the [FAQ](#) questions for your answer.
 - If you do not see your question and answer on the FAQs, email Karma Edwards, NACDD's Walkability Subject Matter Expert, at kedwards_ic@chronicdisease.org. All submitted questions will be compiled and answered within two business days on the FAQ list.
- For more information on CDC DNPAO state and local programs and efforts, visit:
 - [Active People, Healthy Nation](#)
 - Active People, Healthy Nation [Strategies for Increasing Physical Activity](#)
 - Active People, Healthy Nation [Tools for Action](#)
 - [CDC DNPAO State and Local Programs](#)
 - [CDC DNPAO Physical Activity](#)
 - [CDC DNPAO Health Equity Resources](#)
- For more information on NACDD's Walkability Action Institute efforts, visit: <http://www.chronicdisease.org/page/WAI>.
- For more information on national guidelines and policy statements related to physical activity, active transportation, and community design, visit:
 - [Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans, 2nd Edition](#)
 - [Guide to Community Preventive Services](#)
 - [Community Preventive Services Task Force](#)
 - Community Preventive Services Task Force's [Built Environment Recommendations](#)
 - Community Preventive Services Task Force's [Findings and Rationale Statement](#), with attention to Tables 1 and 2 on page 3.
 - The [Step It Up! US SG CTA to Promote Walking and Walkable Communities](#)



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Request for Funding Assistance (RFA) Application Appendix A

Interested State Entity Application for State-Based WAI

APPLICATION DUE DATE: December 12, 2025 by 11:59 p.m. ET via electronic submission through the [Application Link](#).

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS: The Application can be viewed below and accessed on the [WAI webpage](#) in a fillable, Word format. Complete the application and submit electronically (Word or PDF format) via the [Application Link](#).

- The formatting of the Application Form should remain unchanged.
- The Application should not exceed seven (7) pages (single spaced, Calibri, size 12 font)

Application Questions

- 1) Provide a brief statement indicating why your state wants to host the Active People, Healthy Nation WAI (10 points) and describe how hosting the WAI will augment your state's current efforts to improve physical activity through community design (10 points). **(20 points)**
- 2) Since Interested State Entities will be providing capacity building assistance to at least four, but no more than eight, local/regional interdisciplinary participant teams, it is expected that the selected State Entity form an interdisciplinary state-level team to attend and participate in the WAI. Does your state currently have a state-level interdisciplinary partner team in place (check one box)? **(Required, but unscored)**
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
- 3) If 'Yes' to question #2, describe the current relationships and skill sets of the interdisciplinary partners and how this team's attendance at the WAI will contribute to the state's ability to scale local/regional policy, system, and environmental (PSE) changes for physically active travel to community destinations. **(10 points)**

If 'No' to question #2 and the interdisciplinary state-level team is being assembled for the first time, describe your plan for forming this team in advance of the WAI and how this new team could contribute right away to local/regional PSE success for physically active travel to community destinations. **(10 points)**

- 4) Whether as an existing interdisciplinary team or as individual partners or agencies, describe any past or current cross-collaborative efforts to improve walkability, movability, and/or active transportation in your state. Share outcomes data, as appropriate. **(10 points)**
- 5) Describe your state's short-term and long-term plans for working collaboratively across disciplines to improve physically active travel to community destinations using PSE approaches. **(15 points)**
- 6) Describe your anticipated process for recruiting at least four, but no more than eight, local/regional interdisciplinary participant teams from within your state (5 points). Include how you plan to consider, engage, and reflect specific populations and places experiencing the greatest need as part of your state-based WAI cohort of communities and any previous experience engaging with these communities in support of community design for physical activity efforts (5 points). **(10 points)**
- 7) Share any evidence of the need and/or demand for improved walkability, movability, and/or active transportation in your state that could be improved through the achievement of future PSE changes. This could include mode share data, crash data, anticipated infrastructure projects, community health assessment data, community feedback, visioning, planning documents, and/or assessment processes (e.g., including walk/move audits, photovoice, listening sessions, and windshield tours). You may use state level data, local/regional data from your prospective participant locations, or a combination of both. Please be concise and evidence-based. **(15 points)**
- 8) Share how your state's past, current, and/or recognized future efforts will positively impact populations/communities/places experiencing the greatest need as it relates to improving walkability, movability, and active transportation. **(10 points)**
- 9) Describe how your state's participation in the Active People, Healthy Nation WAI will augment your future physical activity efforts? (Note that this is an opportunity to provide any information not explicitly requested in the previous application questions and make clear the value of your state's participation in the WAI). **(10 points)**
- 10) From the lists below, select the populations and locations/places that you aim to impact through your participation in the state-based WAI. **(Required, but unscored)**

Populations (check all boxes that apply):

- ☐ American Indian/Alaskan Native
- ☐ Asian American
- ☐ Black/African American
- ☐ Hispanic/Latino
- ☐ Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- ☐ White/Non-Hispanic
- ☐ Other race/ethnicity (please describe):

- ☐ Elderly
- ☐ Faith-Based
- ☐ Low Socio-Economic Status
- ☐ Military Service Members and Families
- ☐ People with Disabilities
- ☐ Youth
- ☐ Other special populations (please describe):

Locations/Places (check all boxes that apply):

- ☐ Urban City Areas
 - ☐ Impoverished or disadvantaged urban city areas
- ☐ Suburban Areas
 - ☐ Impoverished or disadvantaged suburban areas
- ☐ Rural Areas
 - ☐ Impoverished or disadvantaged rural areas
- ☐ Frontier Areas
 - ☐ Impoverished or disadvantaged frontier areas



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Request for Funding Assistance (RFA) Application Appendix B

Description of Local/Regional Required and Additional Team Representatives

The following list provides additional guidance on the required and additional team members for local/regional participant team make-up. Team members must work in the location/region.

Local/Regional Team Members	Team Member Descriptions
Required Team Members	
Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local, regional, or state public health practitioner, coordinator, health promotion specialist, or health education specialist with demonstrated experience in policy, system, and environmental (PSE) changes for walkability/movability improvements through community and/or transportation design
Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical community, urban, metropolitan, or transportation planning development professional/administrator Can represent local (city/county)/regional level planning. Can represent municipal government or private firm planning. Example regional planning entities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Regional Council of Government (RCOG) Other similar regional planning entity
Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local, regional, or state transportation representative Strong preference for this member to have engineering responsibility such as with a Department of Transportation (first preference), Department of Public

Local/Regional Team Members	Team Member Descriptions
	Works, Transportation Management Agency, or a private firm
Elected Official	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A decision maker who is elected to office or a position and maintains voting privileges • Must have interests, voting, programmatic, fiscal, and/or policy decision-making capabilities pertaining to walkability, movability, active living, community development/redevelopment, economic development, smart growth, healthy community design, and/or transportation design • Examples include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ City/county/municipal/township councilmembers ○ County commissioners ○ School board/district members ○ Mayors, etc.
Additional Regional Team Members	
Business/Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business/industry leader with local/regional reach and influence • Focus on PSE approaches that promote physical activity for employees (e.g., comprehensive transportation demand management program or accomplishment of health insurer benefits for employees)
Community, Regional, or Urban Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private sector participant in land development, realty lending, or related fields with reach and influence in this arena • Often works with planning professions but is not employed by the agency • Examples include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Leader or influencer in the state or regional chapter of Urban Land Institute, National Association of Realtors, National Association of Homebuilders, or equivalent group of private sector developers
Disability Expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual with expertise and experience in community engagement and universal design • Ideally has worked extensively on PSE approaches toward movable, accessible design
Economic/Community Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with local/regional community development including Main Street, downtown redevelopment, or comparable programs, funding, and policies • Examples include, but are not limited to:

Local/Regional Team Members	Team Member Descriptions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local/regional members of the Department of Commerce ○ Local/regional Chambers of Commerce ○ Philanthropic foundations, etc.
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Education administrator, official, or educator ● Influence with respect to school facilities, school health policies and practices, school siting, student transportation, and/or Safe Routes to School efforts
Parks, Recreation, and Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parks and recreation departments, trails groups, and/or open space planning and funding agencies, advocacy groups, etc.
Public Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Agency or influential nonprofit organization or housing group that is involved intimately with the development and maintenance of affordable housing
Public Transit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Transit agency with influence in local/regional PSE efforts to increase walkability, movability, and improved community and transportation design
Volunteer/nonprofit walkability-related advocacy organizations or foundations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strong and influential groups working in pedestrian advocacy, community health coalition, smart growth, new urbanism, open space conservation, community development, or equivalent area
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For any other discipline not represented in the above list, please justify the relevance of their work and influence on walkability, movability, and related policies



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Request for Funding Assistance (RFA) Application Appendix C

Project Timeline

The general, anticipated timeline for the Active People, Healthy Nation WAI is detailed below.

- **November 10, 2025:**
 - State-based Active People, Healthy Nation WAI opportunity is announced to current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity (DNPAO) State Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) and High Obesity Program (HOP) recipients
- **November 10 – December 12, 2025 (anticipated):**
 - WAI RFA application period for Interested State Entities
 - Informational Webinar on **November 17, 2025** from **11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. ET**. [REGISTER for the Informational Webinar](#)
 - [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) document to be updated within 24 hours of questions submitted during application period
 - WAI RFA Application due via electronic submission through the [Application Link](#) by **11:59 p.m. ET on Friday, December 12, 2025**
- **December 13 – December 19, 2025 (anticipated):**
 - WAI RFA application review and selection period
 - NACDD to notify two selected State Entities of acceptance between **December 19 – 31, 2025** (anticipated)
- **January 5 (anticipated) – July 31, 2026:**
 - Selected State Entities, NACDD, and CDC will collaboratively plan and implement the WAI for the project period of **January 5 (anticipated) – July 31, 2026**; all project activities and deliverables will be completed during this period