Without quality services, health care access and affordability are meaningless. From designing and supporting health care improvement projects worldwide to developing opioid prescribing guidelines in the United States, Abt boldly delivers a range of innovative technical assistance services to improve the quality of health care services for clients and stakeholders. Our work increases the success of programs, organizations and systems, improving the lives and well-being of patients, families and caregivers worldwide.

Expertise

Abt’s experts provide end-to-end support to help programs, organizations and systems achieve their health care quality and safety goals. Our expertise covers a range of services:

- Technical assistance to build systems, organizational and programmatic or topical capacity
- Needs assessments
- Strategic planning
- Policy development and analysis
- Evaluation technical assistance
- Leadership development
- Program development
- Implementation support
- Performance measurement
- Tailored and comprehensive delivery mechanisms, from coaching to learning collaboratives

Selected Work

Merit-based Incentive Payment System’s (MIPS) Practice Improvement and Measures Management Support (PIMMS)

Client: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

Abt provides CMS with overall MIPS implementation support with a focus on the program’s Improvement Activity (IA) performance category. This support includes developing and selecting IAs for annual rulemaking, including providing analysis and monitoring; maintaining and updating IAs; and reviewing and recommending the approval of new IAs for the inventory. Abt also supports external stakeholders communications related to MIPS measures and IAs and conducts a study to understand clinician perspectives on MIPS. Abt is a subcontractor to General Dynamics Information Technology on this contract.

Development of Rapid-Learning Networks in Primary Care

Client: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

Practice-Based Research Networks (PBRNs) are groups of primary care clinicians and practices working together to answer community-based health care questions and translate research findings into practice. Abt supports PBRNs through improvement of formal learning networks and by providing AHRQ with a report of current and potential initiatives, strategies and approaches to accelerate learning and improvement activities within these PBRNs.

EvidenceNOW: Advancing Heart Health in Primary Care Technical Assistance (TA) Collaborative

Client: AHRQ

Abt and partners operate a TA Center that supports seven regional cooperatives composed of multidisciplinary teams of experts. These experts provide quality improvement services to hundreds of small primary care practices. The TA Center disseminates best practices in heart health and primary care quality improvement, creates shared learning opportunities and supports cooperatives in quality measure data collection and reporting.

A Clinical Quality Improvement Implementation Package for Large Healthcare Systems: Activities to Support Guideline Dissemination and Implementation

Client: CDC

Abt assists with putting CDC’s “Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain” into practice by developing measures and tools for safer opioid prescribing. Abt and partners are: developing quality improvement (QI) measures for long-term opioid therapy; developing a QI implementation package to promote safer and more effective care of patients on long-term opioid therapy; and supporting implementation of a learning collaborative to facilitate QI efforts in six large healthcare systems.

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Implementing and Identifying the Best Practices for Achieving Baby Friendly USA Designation

Client: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

In partnership with the Carolina Global Breastfeeding Institute and the UNC Center for Public Health Quality, Abt has brought together expertise in breastfeeding, quality improvement initiatives, collaborative learning and tailored TA to improve maternity care practices for breastfeeding. Abt called upon the resources of Baby Friendly USA, the Lactation Education Resources, and many professional organizations to assist in recruiting, training and providing TA to hospitals and maternity care centers to help them achieve Baby Friendly designation.

Pathways for Advancing Careers in Education (PACE)

Client: Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families (OPRE/ACF)

Abt supports an internal learning community to share ideas for designing or adapting programs and implementing study procedures (e.g., recruitment, random assignment) and learn about emerging research findings from PACE and other studies. Activities include annual meetings, teleconferences, webinars, participation in sessions at other conferences and access to briefs and other relevant materials.

Sustaining Health Outcomes through the Private Sector - SHOPS and SHOPS Plus

Client: U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

Led by Abt Associates, the $95 million SHOPS project—and now its successor program SHOPS Plus—works to involve NGOs and for-profit entities in addressing the many health needs of people in developing countries. Within this broad technical approach, SHOPS has worked with USAID clients and country stakeholders in 34 countries to design programs tailored to meet specific challenges and priorities. The goal of both iterations: harness the full potential of the private sector and catalyze public-private engagement to improve health outcomes in family planning, HIV/AIDS, maternal and child health and other health areas by focusing on the total health system to achieve results at scale.

Health Finance and Governance Project (HFG)

Client: USAID

Led by Abt, HFG worked to address some of the greatest challenges facing health systems today. Drawing on the latest research, the project implemented strategies to help countries increase their domestic resources for health, manage those precious resources more effectively and make wise purchasing decisions. The project also assisted countries in developing robust governance systems to ensure that financial investments for health achieve their intended results. Our experts implemented the 5-year, $199 million project in 46 countries, managed 38 sub-awards (33 to local partners) and deployed 152 full-time staff worldwide. Staff are leading the subsequent project, Achieving Sustainability through Local Health Systems, in up to 52 countries.

Substance Use Prevention and Early Intervention Strategic Initiative’s Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Project

Client: Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

Abt leads a multi-year project as the monitoring, evaluation and learning partner for the Hilton Foundation’s Youth Substance Use Prevention and Early Intervention Strategic Initiative. Abt provided ongoing TA and an online learning collaborative community to 42 grantees with varying implementation initiatives.

Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part A Learning Collaborative

Client: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

Abt provides TA to support an HIV care continuum Learning Collaborative across 53 jurisdictions. Abt and our partners developed a virtual learning collaborative platform and provide leadership, guidance and TA.

Executive Office of Health and Human Services’ TA Managing Vendor

Client: Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MassHealth serves more than 1.8 million low- and moderate-income individuals and families and aims to provide access to high-quality, integrated health care. The Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program, authorized under the Medicaid Section 1115 Waiver, is part of MassHealth’s payment reform initiatives, which include investments in accountable care organizations, community partners and community service agencies (collectively, TA recipients). Abt serves as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services’ TA managing vendor, assisting with development and management of the TA program for TA recipients.

For More Information

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Abt Associates uses data and bold thinking to improve the quality of people’s lives worldwide. From increasing crop yields and combatting infectious disease, to ensuring safe drinking water and promoting access to affordable housing—and more—we partner with clients and communities to tackle their most complex challenges.