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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**NNPHI launches *State Forums to Advance Health Systems Transformation***

**August 25, 2014, Washington, DC:** The National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI), with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, has awarded grants to four member public health institutes to host state forums to advance collaborative practice for bridging public health and health care.

While there have been many national conversations on bridging public health and health care, health system partners have identified few practical strategies to improve the overall health of the community. *State Forums to Advance Health Systems Transformation (State Forums)* will address this gap by facilitating forums through the NNPHI network that will incubate innovative, replicable bridging strategies that can be achieved at the state and local levels.

“Public health institutes have demonstrated leadership in supporting the advancement of health system transformation on the national, state and local level. These forums will create practical, replicable strategies that states can use to move from concept to action” said Vincent Lafronza, CEO and President of NNPHI.

*State Forums* will provide up to \$35,000 to each of the following institutes to leverage and sustain the momentum to coordinate bridging efforts within their respective states: the [University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute](#), the [Institute for Public Health Innovation](#) (serving the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia), the [Health Policy Institute of Ohio](#), and the [Georgia Health Policy Center](#). Applicants for the initiative underwent a competitive selection process, including a review by a committee comprised of national partner organizations. NNPHI congratulates all applicants for the high quality work they are doing to advance health systems transformations.

Each of the selected applicants will host a state forum and develop practical strategies to align health system stakeholders around the mutual goal of improving population health. The forums will address various strategies that bridge public health and health care based on the needs identified within each state. Specific strategies include: the integration of community health workers within the health care system, the development of a community health fund to support population health initiatives, and the utilization of health metrics as a mechanism to identify and leverage partnership opportunities for addressing health needs. Forums are expected to be held by May 2015.

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### **About the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI)**

NNPHI's mission is to support national public health system initiatives and strengthen PHIs to promote multi-sector activities resulting in measurable improvements of public health structures, systems, and outcomes. Learn more about NNPHI and its member institutes at [www.nnphi.org](http://www.nnphi.org).

### **About the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**

For more than 40 years the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has worked to improve the health and health care of all Americans. We are striving to build a national Culture of Health that will enable all Americans to live longer, healthier lives now and for generations to come. For more information, visit [www.rwjf.org](http://www.rwjf.org). Follow the Foundation on Twitter at [www.rwjf.org/twitter](https://twitter.com/rwjf) or on Facebook at [www.rwjf.org/facebook](https://www.facebook.com/rwjf).