



Mission: Lifeline Stroke Wyoming- System of Care Initiative

The Mission: Lifeline Stroke Wyoming Initiative will allow Wyoming to focus on the acute treatment of stroke by helping hospitals treat stroke as well as improving the integration of stroke recovery/rehab in both large and small communities.

Stroke is one of the leading causes of death and long-term disability in Wyoming. Nearly half of Wyoming residents live more than an hour from a hospital, creating significant barriers to receiving time-sensitive stroke treatment. Mission: Lifeline Stroke Wyoming aims to address these challenges by building a coordinated statewide system of care that improves access, treatment, rehabilitation, and recovery.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Mission: Lifeline?

- Mission: Lifeline Stroke is a national American Heart Association program that helps communities build coordinated, evidence-based stroke systems of care, measure performance, identify gaps, and improve patient outcomes.
- The stroke system of care begins with community recognition and preparedness to identify stroke and continues all the way through hospital discharge, into rehabilitation and the initiation of secondary prevention.
- It brings together hospitals, ambulance services, non-transport medical first response agencies, emergency communications centers, emergency medical service regulatory and medical direction agencies, local government, local media, payers, and stroke rehabilitation to forge a proactive system of stroke care that saves and improves lives.

What does participation look like?

Participating organizations will gain access to statewide quality improvement efforts, educational opportunities, performance benchmarking, clinical best practices, and collaboration with stroke care leaders across Wyoming

Statewide Stroke Task Force Participation

We aim to establish a statewide stroke task force with representatives from every component of the stroke system of care, including EMS, rural hospitals, receiving centers, rehabilitation providers, the Wyoming Department of Health, the Wyoming Hospital Association, and other key stakeholders. This group will help guide the initiative from initial planning through implementation and long-term sustainability.

Subcommittee Leadership and Participation

The task force will identify and establish subcommittees to advance key project priorities. Potential areas of focus include:

- Standardization of hospital stroke order sets and prehospital stroke protocols
- Development and implementation of a Wyoming-specific stroke education curriculum
- Identification of quality improvement opportunities through stroke performance data and outcomes analysis

Hospital Participation

Participating hospitals will:

- Contribute data to support statewide stroke quality improvement efforts.
- Participate in monthly learning collaboratives and educational programs.
- Share best practices and collaborate with other Wyoming hospitals.
- Engage in initiative activities as organizational capacity allows

Participating sites will be eligible to receive an incentive stipend to support their involvement.

EMS Participation

EMS agencies play a critical role in early stroke recognition and rapid transport. Participating agencies will help shape statewide protocols while gaining access to education, performance data, and quality improvement resources.

Participating EMS agencies will:

- Track and report selected stroke performance metrics
- Participate in task force and subcommittee activities as schedules allow
- Engage in learning collaboratives and educational opportunities throughout the initiative

This collaborative approach is designed to strengthen stroke systems of care across Wyoming and improve outcomes for patients statewide.

What is the Goal:

Mission: Lifeline Stroke Wyoming is designed to improve stroke outcomes by strengthening the statewide system of care, from symptom recognition and emergency response through treatment, rehabilitation, and recovery. Through collaboration among hospitals, EMS agencies, rehabilitation providers, public health leaders, and government partners, more Wyoming residents can receive timely, evidence-based care close to home and across the continuum of recovery.

Through Mission: Lifeline Stroke, residents of Wyoming will receive the following benefits:

- Improved public awareness of the risk factors and symptoms of a stroke and the need to call 9-1-1
- A coordinated statewide network of EMS agencies, hospitals, and rehabilitation providers working together to deliver timely, evidence-based stroke care.

- Seamless discharge to high-quality, post-acute stroke rehabilitation and recovery care
- Guideline-directed, standardized care in post-acute stroke care facilities to improve recovery and quality of life and skilled nursing facilities certified in post-acute stroke care
- A sustainable statewide quality improvement data system to monitor patient care, identify successes and areas in need of further improvement and support
- A robust, collaborative infrastructure for long-term attention to stroke outcomes across the state; and a report to guide future stroke efforts for key stakeholders across the state.

How is this Mission Funded?

The American Heart Association has announced a statewide commitment of \$5 million for its Mission: Lifeline Stroke initiative to strengthen the full spectrum of stroke care in Wyoming. The foundation of this new initiative is a three-year grant of nearly \$4.5 million from The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust.

How long will the initiative last?

Grant funding will support implementation from 2027 through 2030. Investments will focus primarily on hospital and EMS infrastructure, education, quality improvement, and statewide system development.

Why should our organization participate?

Participation provides access to statewide quality improvement resources, clinical education, performance benchmarking, peer collaboration, and opportunities to help shape the future of stroke care in Wyoming. Participating organizations will play a direct role in improving outcomes for stroke patients across the state.

How will we measure the impact of the funding and the Mission Lifeline program?

Hospitals will be participating in the AHA/ASA Get With The Guidelines® Stroke Registry which tracks all acute stroke patients from first medical contact through hospital discharge. This data collection will support standardization, compliance, and quality improvement review, as well as help guide education.

What other states have done this program and what has been the outcome?

North Dakota, Nebraska, Montana, Iowa, Hawaii, Nevada, and South Dakota have had or are currently in similar initiatives in differing phases of implementation. States participating in similar initiatives have reported stronger collaboration among EMS agencies and hospitals, increased guideline adherence, expanded clinical education opportunities, and more standardized approaches to stroke care.