

# NGS Quality Initiative Peer Network Program

Sponsored by the Association of Public Health Laboratories *in collaboration with the*  
Division of Laboratory Systems, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

## Description

The purpose of the **NGS Quality Initiative (NGS QI) peer network program** is to help provide public health laboratories an opportunity to grow their quality management systems for NGS and bioinformatics. This program will serve as an opportunity for laboratories to share information and best practices amongst peers, enabling them to gain new, collaborative insights into improving sequencing quality activities. This program is supported by the [APHL-CDC NGS Quality Initiative](#), which developed over 100 different tools and resources to aid laboratories in the development of their quality management system for NGS.

## Objectives

As a result of peer network involvement, the participating laboratory can:

- Compare sequencing quality management practices with their paired laboratory, and work to evaluate their own quality practices.
- Develop and employ new sequencing quality management practices obtained through the peer network's information sharing process.
- Recognize additional resources hosted by the NGS Quality Initiative or opportunities for long-term collaborations and learning through their peer network.

## Participant Requirements:

We highly encourage any and all public health laboratories to apply for this opportunity, regardless of sequencing capacity or extent of quality management practices in the sequencing space. Engagement for participating laboratories includes:

- Two (2) one-hour agenda setting sessions ([virtual](#))
- One (1) site host engagement (two-days long)
- One (1) site visit engagement (two-days long)
- One (1) one-hour debrief meeting ([virtual](#))

## Site Visits:

The intention of us holding agenda-setting meetings is to engage with our participating jurisdictions to tailor the site visits to best meet their individual needs and interests. As such, input from our participants is crucial in the early stages of planning to ensure they are receiving the greatest benefit from their involvement in the peer network program.

Examples of site visit activities include laboratory tours, quality management system (QMS) demonstrations, presentations on sequencing catalogs and ongoing projects, demonstrations on the use of NGS QI products and their applications, and discussions on process improvements and overall information sharing opportunities.

## Participant Benefits:

Participant laboratories in the NGS QI peer network program are incentivized for their time and effort through the following benefits:

- Participating laboratories will receive access to the expertise of their paired organization, permitting them to overcome challenges related to sequencing quality management.
- Staff at participating laboratories will receive both collaboration and quality management experience through their engagement, providing for the NGS QI peer network program to serve as a professional development activity for participating personnel.
- Laboratories will have the opportunity to build long-term, collaborative relationships with their paired organizations.
- Participating laboratories, and their representatives, will receive fully funded travel for site visits for approved personnel to their paired institution, which will be organized by APHL.

## Application:

**Application Deadline: January 10th, 2025.**

- The [application](#) is to be completed online. Only completed applications received by the deadline will be considered.
- Following completion of the application period, APHL will work to appropriately match peer network counterpart based on complementary sets of strengths and challenges in the sequencing quality space.
- APHL will work directly with designated participants to arrange travel and accommodations for site visits. **All costs for this for this program including, travel support, per diem, housing etc. will be covered for these individuals by APHL.**

For any questions, contact [Shannon Mahoney](#).

