2027 THA Leadership Fellows Capstone

The THA Leadership Fellows capstone project allows participants to apply principles and competencies of the Leadership Fellows program to current real-world industry issues, challenges or opportunities. The THA Fellows' Capstone project works to enhance:

- Healthcare advocacy effectiveness;
- Collaboration and relationship building;
- Critical thinking and thought leadership;
- Serving as a change agent in your organization;
- Strategizing for internal and external engagement;
- Providing and receiving constructive feedback from colleagues;
- Public speaking;
- Analysis of gaps or opportunities for continual organizational improvement; and
- The ability to synthesize complex information into simple and clear ideas.

Project Overview

The capstone project reinforces the mission and purpose of the Fellows program: to develop change agents who drive improvement and innovation and have the confidence to advocate for their hospital, community, and the healthcare industry. Each member of the THA Leadership Fellows class will be placed in a group focused on a specific issue, challenge, or opportunity affecting healthcare affordability. Each group will develop a solution to reduce costs within one of the five healthcare affordability topic areas and identify the legislative or operational action needed to make that solution a reality. One key outcome of the capstone project is to enhance the ability to synthesize complex healthcare issues into easily understandable information for stakeholders and to develop the practice of advocating for specific legislative solutions.

The Fellows Capstone should:

- Address one of the five healthcare affordability topic areas provided by THA.
- Develop a solution to cut costs or identify savings within the selected topic area.
- Incorporate the principles and strategies discussed in the Fellows program into the project.
- Provide data (quantitative or qualitative) to reinforce the need to address the issue/opportunity.
- Identify the legislation needed to enact the proposed solution, and address gaps in key areas of engagement and advocacy among local or state government or other leadership organizations in the community to implement cost-saving policies.
- Provide actionable steps to address gaps in legislation needed to achieve the proposed cost savings.

This year, THA will divide the 2027 cohort into five groups to work on one of the healthcare affordability topic areas listed below.

Topics

Capstone projects will fall under the umbrella of healthcare affordability and will address one of the topic areas listed below:

- Insurance – e.g., prior authorization, vertical integration, financial stability (government payors), Medicare Advantage
- Consumer – e.g. holistic cost of health, price transparency, health care literacy and the informed consumer
- Supplies/Supply Chain – e.g. group purchasing organizations (GPOs) and monopolies
- Hospital Operations – e.g. staffing costs, retention, AI
- Access/Coverage – e.g. enhanced premium tax credits, the uninsured

Throughout the THA Leadership Fellows Program, participants will have the opportunity to consult with THA's advocacy, data and communications staff as well as have access to THA whitepapers and other resources, as available.

Deliverables

The culmination of the capstone project will result in three deliverables due throughout the program's time frame:

- Testimony – Each program participant will participate in a mock legislative testimony, presenting a key component of their capstone subject.
- Executive Summary – Each group will provide an executive summary inclusive of resources on their specified topic.
- Presentation – Each group will be responsible for creating a final capstone presentation on their subject. Two presentations will be selected to present a breakout session at the THA 2027 Annual Conference.

Additional details on these items are provided on the Timeline and Deliverables document.

Capstone Questions?

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