



Advancing Financial Strength Overview

What is Advancing Financial Strength?

Advancing Financial Strength (AFS) is a new technical assistance program from Capital Link that provides health center staff from all levels of the organization with financial and operational benchmarking assistance, tools, and training with the goal of improving health center business operations and financial health.

How Does AFS Work?

At the start of the program, participants are provided with a Performance Evaluation Profile (PEP), a customized diagnostic tool to help them to better understand their own financial status as well as how they compare to other centers in the region and state.

100 Series	Informed by the PEP report, this first set of trainings introduce financial benchmarking, key metrics for tracking organizational performance, national and statewide trends, and next steps.
200 Series	This second set of trainings focuses on how to interpret and respond to the findings in the PEP report in order to develop an action plan. Topics include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Team-Based Care/Integrated Care Delivery• Strategic Planning• Change Management Ideas and Strategies• Drivers of Health Center Performance and Productivity• Managing the Revenue Cycle/Billing and Collections• Planning for Growth: Forecasting, Benchmarking, and Accessing Capital

300 Series

This final set of trainings and technical assistance are designed to help participants implement changes and best practices for financial and operational performance improvement. Group or potentially cohort training and one-on-one coaching on a variety of topics can be provided either on-site or remotely, including:

- Revenue Cycle Optimization
- Team-Based Integration/Staff and Patient Engagement/Facility Optimization
- Capital Expansion Planning/Financial Forecasting
- Operational Efficiencies/Productivity Improvements

Pilot Program Results

In a pilot program conducted in 2016, AFS participants accomplished the following:

- Implemented changes and best practices around financial systems, revenue cycle management and billing, alignment with new reimbursement methods, team-based care, and patient and staff satisfaction
- Incorporated billing and financial performance metrics/measures based on benchmarking
- Made strategic changes to optimize performance processes that will strengthen health center finances
- Outsourced revenue cycle management function to focus on core business
- Implemented work flow improvements to improve team dynamics and care coordination
- Transitioned to shared services options to reduce costs and increase efficiencies