



Nearly **5 million Veterans** live with a service-connected disability, which is a significant driver of health care use, costs, and poor quality of life. This cost extends beyond the Veteran and impacts their support system, including family or friend caregivers who help manage disability. Function QUERI's impact goal is to implement and evaluate effective practices to **maximize function and independence** in Veterans. To date, Function QUERI practices have been implemented in more than **130 VAMCs**, reaching **every VISN** across the country.

## Scaling up and spreading three evidence-based practices

The Function QUERI Program is supporting implementation of 3 evidence-based practices (EBPs) to optimize function and independence.



**Group Physical Therapy for Knee Osteoarthritis (Group PT)** improves access and outcomes for Veterans with knee osteoarthritis by delivering physical therapy in a group setting.



**STRIDE**, a 2018 Diffusion of Excellence Gold Status practice, is a supervised, inpatient walking program designed to reduce preventable harm of hospital-associated disability for Veterans.



**Caregivers FIRST** (formerly iHI-FIVES), is designed to improve caregiver skill building and support and improve satisfaction with care. It has been selected by the VA Caregiver Support Program (CSP) for national rollout.

## Supporting sites with multi-faceted strategies

The Implementation Core, guided by the QUERI Implementation Roadmap and Dynamic Sustainability Framework, is utilizing Replicating Effective Programs (REP) to support implementation efforts.

- **Foundational REP** – All enrolled sites will engage in standardized implementation support activities based on common elements developed and tested in prior Function QUERI work.
- **Foundational REP** – Selected sites (based on randomization) that do not meet adoption benchmarks will also receive higher intensity implementation support for a period of 4 to 6 months, which will include a barrier/needs assessment and interactive problem solving and support.



## Developing multi-level, productive partnerships

- VA Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Service
- VA Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care
- VA Office of Nursing Services
- VA Office of Safe Patient Handling and Mobility
- VHA Diffusion of Excellence
- VA Caregiver Support Program
- VISNs 6, 12, 23

## Program impacts

### Group PT

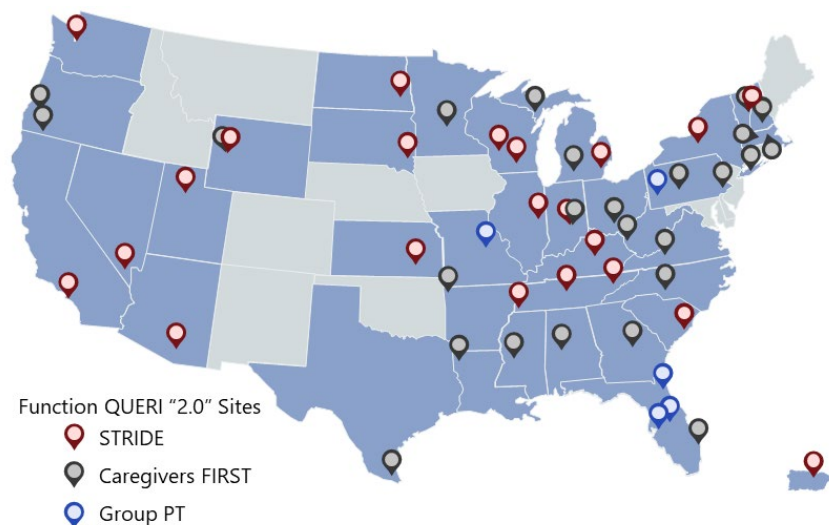
1 site launched practice  
15 providers receiving implementation training  
Part of VHA Diffusion Marketplace

### STRIDE

750 Veterans impacted  
103 providers receiving implementation training  
VHA Diffusion of Excellence Gold Status Practice

### Caregivers FIRST

1,930 caregivers trained  
142 providers receiving implementation training  
VHA Diffusion of Excellence Semi-finalist



## Expanding VA's short- and long-term evaluation capacity

- Function QUERI's **Rapid Response Team** is partnering with national, regional, and local partners to conduct high-quality implementation and evaluation projects to meet operational needs.
- The **Mentoring Core** is training the next generation of implementation science investigators to become leaders in accelerating the adoption of effective practices in VA. Through recruitment and retention of fellows and providing hands-on mentored experiences, the Mentoring Core enables fellows to enhance their knowledge and skills in applying implementation science to address health care challenges and improve VA health care.

For more information, check out:

[https://www.durham.hsrd.research.va.gov/Function\\_Independence\\_QUERI.asp](https://www.durham.hsrd.research.va.gov/Function_Independence_QUERI.asp)

If you would like to learn more or partner with us, please contact, Caitlin Kappler at [Caitlin.Kappler@va.gov](mailto:Caitlin.Kappler@va.gov).

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