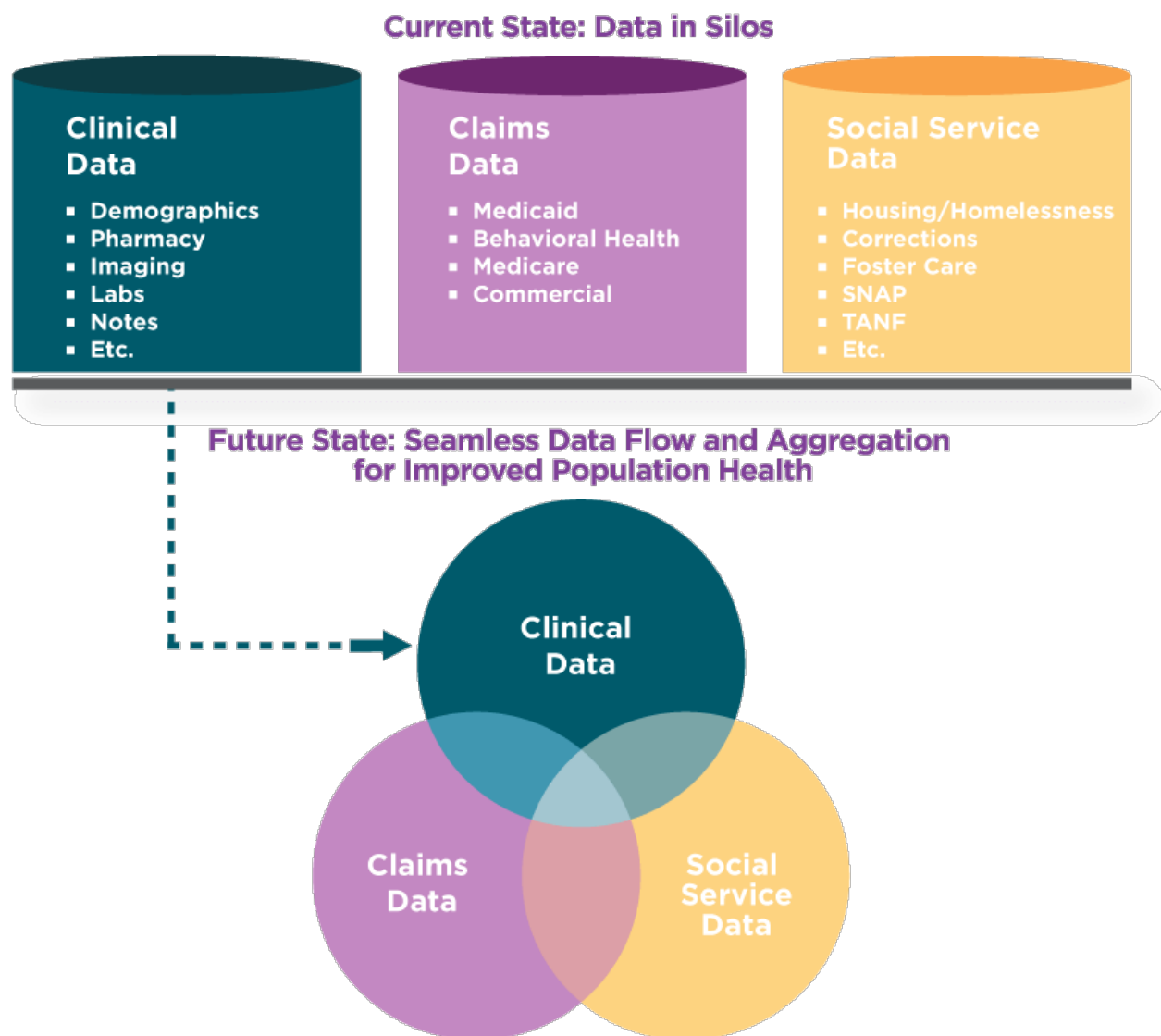# Getting From Here to There: NGA's Health Info Roadmap

For those in the business of health care, we live our lives by the popular mantra of "Better Care. Better Health. Lower Costs." Six simple words with a powerful—and complicated—mission. With [so much to do](#), [so much information](#) and [so much budget scrutiny](#), it's no wonder that health care is ranked at the top of the list for [fastest growing industries](#). Where does one even begin to tackle such goals?

Current State: Data in Silos

Clinical Data
- Demographics
- Pharmacy
- Imaging
- Labs
- Notes
- Etc.

Claims Data
- Medicaid
- Behavioral Health
- Medicare
- Commercial

Social Service Data
- Housing/Homelessness
- Corrections
- Foster Care
- SNAP
- TANF
- Etc.

Future State: Seamless Data Flow and Aggregation for Improved Population Health

Clinical Data

Claims Data

Social Service Data

Like most things in life, you start by learning. Learning comes from exposure to and absorption of information. The

problem in healthcare is that the information is either intensely [protected](#) (rightfully so), [cannot be exchanged](#), is [not shared in a meaningful manner](#), or all of the above. As stated in a recent article by Iron Mountain, "Collecting data from many health information sources contributes to the growth of data, but connecting this data to produce anytime, anywhere information access is more difficult."

In an effort to get us all from here to there, the [National Governors Association](#) (NGA) has developed "[A Road Map for States to Improve Health Information Flow between Providers](#)". NGA isn't the first organization to take on the challenge of health care interoperability. The [Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT](#) (ONC) [has their version of the path](#). [HiMSS](#) provides health IT companies with a set of [tools and standards](#). However, what is unique about NGA's map is that it focuses "specifically on clinical data flow between providers with recognition of its importance to the broader shift toward health system transformation and improved population health."

With [five clear, actionable steps](#) governors, health officials, state lawmakers and IT providers can begin the journey of realizing true interoperability. We are excited to see how states leverage NGA's roadmap and the overall impact on patients' care, health and costs.