



## AFFORDABLE CARE ACT MASSACHUSETTS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

November 03, 2014

### Quick Links

[MA-ACA Website](#)



These Updates, published by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) in consultation with the other state agencies involved in ACA implementation, will bring you news related to the implementation of provisions of the ACA here in Massachusetts.

### Grants and Demonstrations

The ACA provides funding opportunities to transform how health care is delivered, expand access to care and support healthcare workforce training.

### Grant Announcements

**Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative (TCPI), §3021, announced two grant opportunities on October 23, 2014.** Created under ACA §3021, TCPI is designed to support 150,000 clinician practices over the next four years in sharing, adapting and further developing their comprehensive quality improvement strategies. For both opportunities, mandatory letters of intent are due November 20, 2014 and applications are due January 6, 2014.

For more information about TCPI, visit [CMS.GOV](http://CMS.GOV)

**Support and Alignment Network (SAN):** Funding is available to leverage primary and specialist care transformation work in order to contribute to the overall efficiency and movement of clinician practices. This will be completed through the five phases of transformation and achievement listed in the TCPI goals.

Eligible applicants include organizations that serve as medical or professional associations and specialty

societies, organizations involved in generating evidence-based guidelines for clinical practice, and organizations promoting measurement and improvement through clinical registries and electronic health records. \$30,000,000 in total is available for thirty awards.

An announcement for this opportunity can be viewed at: [CMS.GOV](http://CMS.GOV)

**Practice Transformation Networks (PTN):** Funding is available to collaboratively lead clinicians and their practices through the TCPI phases of transformation, achieve the TCPI goals, and through adaptive redesign, position these clinicians and their practices to be sustainable components within the changing care delivery system.

Eligible applicants are limited to organizations that have pre-existing relationships with multiple clinicians/practices that includes an ability to receive data from these practices. \$670,000,000 in total is available for thirty five awards.

An announcement for this opportunity can be viewed at: [CMS.GOV](http://CMS.GOV)

## Grant Activity

**On September 17, DPH was awarded \$700,000 for the Enhance an Immunization Information System (IIS) to Interface with CDC's Vaccine Ordering and Management System (VTrckS) Grant.** The opportunity is authorized under ACA §4002.

This project provides funds to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and quality of immunization practices by strengthening the immunization information technology infrastructure and expanding immunization delivery partnerships so that more children, adolescents, and adults are protected against vaccine-preventable diseases. Funding will also help IIS to interface with the Vaccine Tracking System (VTrckS), CDC's national vaccine ordering and inventory management system for publicly purchased vaccines.

DPH will use their awarded funding to enhance its current vaccine management module in its IIS, the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS), to improve vaccine accountability and increase program operations efficiency. The system enhancements will encompass two phases with the first to be complete in early 2015 and the second by early 2016.

An IIS is a confidential, population-based, computerized database that records all immunization doses administered by participating providers to persons residing within a given geopolitical area. For more information regarding this program please visit: [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/iis/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/iis/index.html)

Read the grant abstract at: [www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/eohhs/healthcare-reform/grants/140731-sec-4002-enhance-iis.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/eohhs/healthcare-reform/grants/140731-sec-4002-enhance-iis.pdf)

For information about ACA grants awarded to and grant proposals submitted by the Commonwealth, visit the Grants page of the **Massachusetts National Health Care Reform website** at: [www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/commissions-and-initiatives/healthcare-reform/national-health-care-reform-plan/grants-and-demonstrations.html](http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/commissions-and-initiatives/healthcare-reform/national-health-care-reform-plan/grants-and-demonstrations.html)

## Guidance

Prior guidance can be found at: [www.hhs.gov/healthcare/index.html](http://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/index.html)

## News

**10/28/14 The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) issued a draft recommendation statement about screening for thyroid dysfunction in non-pregnant and asymptomatic adults.** The USPSTF concluded that the current evidence is insufficient to determine the effectiveness of screening for thyroid dysfunction and assigned an "I" rating to the recommendation. The "I" rating indicates that the Task Force does not recommend the service.

Thyroid dysfunction is one of the most common endocrine (or hormone) conditions that doctors and nurses evaluate and treat. Thyroid dysfunction is a spectrum of disorders related to the thyroid gland, which produces hormones that help control the body's metabolism. It includes hypothyroidism (underproduction of thyroid hormones) and hyperthyroidism (overproduction of thyroid hormones), both of which can impact health.

The USPSTF is an independent panel of non-federal government experts that conduct reviews of scientific evidence of preventive health care services. The USPSTF then develops and publishes recommendations for primary care clinicians and health systems in the form of recommendation statements. As part of their recommendations process, the USPSTF will assign definitions to the services they review based on the certainty that a patient will receive a substantial benefit from receiving the benefit. Services that are graded "A" and "B" are highly recommended and the USPSTF believes there is a high certainty that patient will receive a substantial or moderate benefit.

Under ACA §1001, all of the recommended services receiving grades of "A" or "B" must be provided without cost-sharing when delivered by an in-network health insurance provider in the plan years (or, in the individual market, policy years) that began on or after September 23, 2010. If the screening recommendation is finalized with a "I" rating, then this service does not have to be provided without cost sharing.

Comments are due on November 24, 2014 and can be submitted at:

[www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Name/us-preventive-services-task-force-opportunities-for-public-comment](http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Name/us-preventive-services-task-force-opportunities-for-public-comment)

Read the draft recommendation statement at:

[www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Document/RecommendationStatementDraft/thyroid-dysfunction-screening](http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/Page/Document/RecommendationStatementDraft/thyroid-dysfunction-screening)

Learn more about preventive services covered under the ACA at: [HHS.Gov](http://HHS.Gov)

Learn more about the USPSTF at: [www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/](http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/)

## Upcoming Events

### Integrating Medicare and Medicaid for Dual Eligible Individuals (also known as One Care) Meetings

#### Open Meeting

Thursday, November 6, 2014  
1:00 p.m. -3:00 p.m.  
Worcester Public Library  
3 Salem St  
Worcester, MA 01608

We welcome attendance from all stakeholders and members of the public with an interest in One Care. Reasonable accommodations will be made for participants who need assistance. Please send your request for accommodations to Donna Kymalainen at [Donna.Kymalainen@state.ma.us](mailto:Donna.Kymalainen@state.ma.us).

#### Implementation Council Meeting

Friday, November 21, 2014  
1:00 p.m. -3:00 p.m.  
1 Ashburton Place, 21st Floor  
Boston, MA

A meeting agenda and any meeting material will be distributed prior to the meetings.

Meetings of the Implementation Council are open to stakeholders and members of the public with an interest in One

Care. Reasonable accommodations are available upon request. Please contact Donna Kymalainen at [Donna.Kymalainen@umassmed.edu](mailto:Donna.Kymalainen@umassmed.edu) to request accommodations.

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Bookmark the **Massachusetts National Health Care Reform website** at: [National Health Care Reform](#) to read updates on ACA implementation in Massachusetts.

Remember to check the Mass.Gov website at: [Dual Eligibles](#) for information on the "**Integrating Medicare and Medicaid for Dual Eligible Individuals**" initiative.

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