



AFFORDABLE CARE ACT MASSACHUSETTS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

February 17, 2015

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

The Interpersonal Violence (IPV) Provider Network: Engaging the Health Care Provider Response to IPV Against Women, \$3509. Announced February 6, 2015. Funding is available to integrate interpersonal violence assessment and intervention into basic care, as well as encouraging collaborations between healthcare providers, public health programs, and IPV programs. Projects should focus on integrated screening, brief counseling and referral for interpersonal violence, improving standards for documentation and communication across programs, integrating evaluation, continuous quality measurement and reporting, and evidence-based interventions, balanced with local cultural and legal considerations.

Eligible applicants include non and for profit organizations; universities and colleges; research institutions; hospitals; state and local governments including health departments; small, minority, and women-owned businesses; community-based and faith-based organizations; federally recognized or state-recognized American Indian/Alaska Native tribal governments; American Indian/Alaska Native tribally designated organizations; Alaska Native health organizations, Urban Indian health organizations and Tribal epidemiology centers. \$2,200,000 is available for three awards.

Applications are due May 12, 2015.

This announcement may be viewed at: GRANTS.GOV

Grant Activity

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

Guidance

2/11/15 HHS/CMS issued a notice under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) seeking comments on the extension of a currently approved collection activity related to the Initial Plan Data Collection to Support Qualified Health Plan (QHP) Certification and Other Financial Management and Exchange Operations.

As required by the ACA, each Exchange must assume responsibilities related to the certification and offering of Qualified Health Plans (QHPs). In addition to data collection for the certification of QHPs, the reinsurance and risk adjustment programs outlined by the ACA, detailed in the December 7, 2012 [proposed rule](#) regarding Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2014, have general information reporting requirements that apply to issuers, group health plans, third party administrators, and plan offerings outside of the Exchanges. Subsequent regulations for these programs including the [final HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2014 and the Program Integrity: Exchange, Premium Stabilization Programs, and Market Standards; Amendments to the HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2014](#), and the [final HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2015](#) provide further reporting requirements.

Comments are due April 13, 2015.

Read the notice at: www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-02-11/html/2015-02852.htm

2/6/15HHS/CMS issued a notice under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) seeking comments on two information collection activities.

Comments are due on April 7, 2015 on both items.

Read the notice at: www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-02-06/pdf/2015-02327.pdf

In item #1, HHS/CMS is seeking comments on the extension of a currently approved collection activity related to health insurance eligibility changes under the ACA.

According to HHS, eligibility determination systems are essential to the goal of increasing coverage in insurance affordability programs while reducing administrative burden on states and consumers. Furthermore, HHS states that the information collection is necessary because the electronic transmission and automation of data transfers are key elements to manage the expected insurance affordability program caseload that started in 2014.

In item #2, HHS/CMS is seeking comments on the extension of a currently approved collection activity related to income and health insurance eligibility verification system reporting and supporting regulations.

In the notice, HHS explains the options that a state Medicaid agency has around obtaining and using information from various sources to verify wage or benefit information. According to HHS, state agencies should rely on their experience to guide the decisions they make but, while states may target resources when verifying income, agencies will still be held accountable for their accuracy in health insurance eligibility determinations.

Prior guidance can be found at: www.hhs.gov/healthcare/index.html

News

WorkForce Training to Educate Health Care Professionals in Health IT Grant Announcement, funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Announced February 3, 2015. Funding is

available through the ARRA to develop workforce training programs that will provide assistance to higher education institutions. These projects will help establish or expand health IT programs in order to promote the effective utilization and development of health information technologies.

The goal of this announcement is to expand the existing workforce training materials to incorporate [Meaningful Use](#) criteria and related care transformation programs that have been introduced or updated through the Affordable Care Act. Eligible applicants include private, public or state controlled institutions of higher education; nonprofit organizations other than institutions of higher education; and for profit organizations other than small businesses. \$6,400,000 in total is available for five awards.

Applications are due April 6, 2015.

This announcement may be viewed at: [GRANTS.GOV](#)

Upcoming Events

Integrating Medicare and Medicaid for Dual Eligible Individuals (also known as One Care) Open Meeting

Friday, February 27, 2015
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
1 Ashburton Place, 21st Floor
Boston, MA

The purpose of this meeting is to continue discussion of key implementation topics for the Duals Demonstration. Please visit the [Materials from Previous Meetings](#) page for information from previous Open Meetings.

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.

Integrating Medicare and Medicaid for Dual Eligible Individuals (also known as One Care) Implementation Council Meeting

Friday, March 13, 2015, 1:00 pm-3:00 pm
State Transportation Building
10 Park Plaza, Conference Rooms 2 & 3
Boston, MA

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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