



## AFFORDABLE CARE ACT MASSACHUSETTS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

June 29, 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

**Immunization - Utilization of Immunization Information Systems (IIS) for Assessment, Feedback, Incentives, and eXchange (AFIX) Assessments**, \$4002. Announced June 19, 2015.

Funding is available to assist current, eligible immunization awardees by transitioning the Assessment, Feedback, Incentives, and eXchange assessment functionality to IIS in order to serve as a single reference source to ensure consistent reporting of provider level coverage assessment results across jurisdictions.

Eligible applicants include state, city, township, county and special district governments who are current awardees. \$10,000,000 is available for twenty five awards.

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: [CDC.GOV](http://CDC.GOV)

Applications are due August 18, 2015.

View the announcement at: [GRANTS.GOV](http://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](http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/commissions-and-initiatives/healthcare-reform/national-health-care-reform-plan/grants-and-demonstrations.html)

## Guidance

**6/25/15 HHS/CMS issued a notice under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) seeking comments on four information collection activities.**

Comments are due July 27, 2015.

Read the notice at: [www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-06-26/pdf/2015-15770.pdf](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-06-26/pdf/2015-15770.pdf)

**In [item #2](#), HHS/CMS is seeking comments on the extension of a currently approved information collection activity related to Medicaid Program Eligibility Changes under the Affordable Care Act of 2010.** 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 #3](#), HHS/CMS is seeking comments on the revision of a currently approved information collection activity related to Cooperative Agreement to Support Navigators in Federally-facilitated and State Partnership Exchanges (or Marketplaces).** Under ACA §1311(i), Exchanges operating as of January 1, 2014 were required to establish a Navigator grant program to provide consumers with health insurance plan enrollment assistance.

The ACA established Affordable Insurance Exchanges (§1311(b)) to provide individuals and small business employees with access to health insurance coverage beginning January 1, 2014. §1311(d) and §1311(i) also direct all Exchanges to award grants to Navigators that provide unbiased information to consumers about health insurance, the Exchange, qualified health plans, and insurance affordability programs including premium tax credits, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Navigator programs provide outreach and education efforts and assistance applying for health insurance coverage. In states with a Federally-facilitated Marketplace (FFM) or State Partnership Marketplace, HHS is responsible for awarding Navigator grants. Note that Massachusetts runs a State-Based Exchange.

**In [item #4](#), HHS/CMS is seeking comments on the extension of a currently approved information collection activity related to Income and 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.

**In [item #5](#), HHS/CMS is seeking comments on a new information collection activity related to Machine Readable Data for Provider Network and Prescription Formulary Content for FFM QHPs.** For plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2016, QHP issuers must make available provider and formulary data in a machine-readable format. As required by the [final rule](#) Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2016 (which was published in the Federal Register on February 27, 2015), QHP issuers in the FFMs are required to publish information regarding their formulary drug lists and provider directories on their websites in an HHS-specified format, in a format and at a frequency determined by HHS.

QHPs are health plans that have been certified by an Exchange, provide essential health benefits (EHB, §1301), and follow established limits on cost-sharing (like deductibles, copayments, and out-of-pocket maximum amounts).

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

## News

**6/25/15 HHS announced a funding opportunity, National Indian Health Outreach and Education – Health Reform Funding Opportunity.** This program is authorized under the: the Snyder Act, codified at 25 U.S.C. §13, and the Transfer Act, codified at 42 U.S.C. § 2001(a).

This opportunity was designed to address health policy and health program issues and distribute educational information regarding health insurance under the ACA to all American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and villages. Funds should also be used to encourage national Indian organizations, Indian Health Service, and Tribal partners to work together to conduct ACA implementation training and technical assistance throughout Indian Country.

Eligible applicants are limited to National Indian organizations with at least ten years of experience providing training, education and outreach on a national scale. \$500,000 is available for two awards.

Applications are due August 19, 2015.

View the announcement at: [GRANTS.GOV](http://GRANTS.GOV)

## Upcoming Events

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

#### One Care Open Meeting\*

Wednesday, July 1, 2015, 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM  
Transportation Building  
10 Park Plaza  
Boston, MA

\*The main purpose of this meeting will be to discuss Fallon Total Care's withdrawal from One Care.

#### Implementation Council Meetings

Friday, July 24, 2015, 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM  
Transportation Building  
10 Park Plaza  
Boston, MA

Friday, September 11, 2015, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM  
1 Ashburton Place, 21st Floor  
Boston, MA

We welcome attendance at all meetings 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).

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

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

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