

New York State Projects Receive \$153 Million in CMS Awards, to Build on HEAL Investments

Improving the quality and lowering the cost of healthcare for those enrolled in Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program is a priority—which is why the **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS)** created the Health Care Innovation Awards, granting funds to organizations developing mechanisms that will do just that.

Earlier this month, when the second round of awards were announced, twelve organizations with projects focused in New York were granted funds of nearly \$153 million out of 81 total recipients.

"Thanks to the healthcare law, we are giving people in local communities the resources they need to make our healthcare system stronger," said Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius when the grants were announced June 15.

The Health Care Innovation Awards are funding up to \$1 billion in grants to applicants from across the nation to implement the most compelling new ideas, with particular focus on addressing individuals with the highest healthcare needs. The funding spans three years.

Building on New York's Investment

Projects similar to the CMS program exist at the state level in New York, where improving coordinated care though health IT lies at the core of statewide healthcare improvement endeavors. These include the Health Care Efficiency and Affordability Law for New Yorkers (HEAL NY) series of grants and the more recent Health Homes Program, an initiative designed to make the state's treatment of Medicaid patients more coordinated and efficient.

Maimonides Medical Center, in Brooklyn, received nearly \$15 million in the recent round of CMS awards for its Brooklyn Care Coordination Consortium. The Consortium has a broad membership including medical, mental health, social service organizations, insurers, and a labor union. It is receiving the funding to improve care for adults with serious mental illness who live in southwest Brooklyn. The project is also estimated to create 162 jobs, including numerous care management roles and IT implementation positions.

"We have been working on a similar project with our HEAL grant to reach out to this group of incredibly needy patients. Our HEAL-funded work was basically a proof of concept—that health information exchange can support the managed care of severely mentally ill patients," said David Cohen, MD, Vice Chair, Medicine and Senior Vice President, Clinical Integration and Affiliations at Maimonides. Dr. Cohen leads the Consortium project.

"This new grant allows us to take the infrastructure we created and marry it to the insurance model so we can better coordinate care and better manage its cost. This should have been done long ago and it's really exciting to be working on it now."

"We applaud the awardees and are particularly excited to see some of our own partners on the list, including Maimonides," said David Whitlinger, Executive Director at the New York eHealth Collaborative.

"Health IT is a critical part of helping these large systems improve their care by allowing providers to communicate with each other quickly and reliably—especially for the at-risk population of patients with chronic conditions. They need coordinated care most of all, and health IT innovation will create those solutions here in New York State and nationwide."

See the full list of New York State projects awarded CMS funding on June 15. <http://innovations.cms.gov/initiatives/Innovation-Awards/new-york.html>

More From NYeC and its Partners

Applications for EHR Vendor Partners

The **New York eHealth Collaborative** is accepting applications for additional EHR vendor partners to aid in the adoption of EHR technology and connection to the health information exchange. Vendor Partners selected—those whose products have aided practices in the successful attainment of Meaningful Use—will collaborate with NYeC on a variety of activities associated with education and HIT adoption, and will be able to connect to the Statewide Health Information Network of New York. Interested parties should review the minimum criteria on the **NYeC website**.

NYC REACH hosting a FREE EHR Vendor Fair. Attend on July 18th to find the perfect EHR for your practice.

NYC REACH [<http://www.nycreach.org/>], the federally designated regional extension center for New York City, is hosting a free electronic health record (EHR) vendor fair on July 18th from 4:30-8:00 p.m. in downtown Manhattan. All providers, nurses, physician and medical assistants, as well as office managers and their support staff, are encouraged to attend to learn how EHRs can prepare medical practices for the future. Don't miss this opportunity to view an array of products, attend vendor demonstrations, consult with NYC REACH representatives, learn about incentives, and network with other practices over complimentary refreshments. To register and for more information, visit: www.nycreach-vendorfair.eventbrite.com.

CPC Webinar, July 16th: Everything You Wanted to Know to Apply to the CPC Initiative

The Comprehensive Primary Care (CPC) initiative is a multi-payer program created by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) to foster collaboration with payers to strengthen primary care. Medicare has worked with several commercial and state health insurance plans to develop bonus payments to primary care doctors who better coordinate the care of their patients. The Capital District and Hudson Valley Regions of New York were selected as focus regions at this time. Primary care practices in Albany, Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Rensselaer, Rockland, Schenectady, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester counties are invited to apply to participate in this initiative. 75 practices will be selected.

Selected practices will receive a \$20 (average) per-beneficiary per-month care management fee on behalf of aligned Medicare beneficiaries who receive care in selected practices, as well as an opportunity to earn shared savings; aligned private payers are each offering their own monthly support payments and an opportunity to earn shared savings to practices in their networks.

CMS is hosting a webinar that will provide information about the program:

July 16, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. ET—Everything You Wanted to Know to Apply to the CPC initiative. [Click Here to register](#).

Additional information can be found on the [CMS Innovation Center website](#).

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