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Healthcare Innovations Challenge Technical Assistance Call Summary

On December 15, 2011, the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development in partnership with the California Workforce Investment Board hosted a technical assistance call for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation- Health Care Innovations Challenge (HCIC) Grant. This call was used to inform prospective applicants of the recommendations that were gathered throughout the State's Health Care Reform activities and how they can possibly be integrated in the letter of intent and ultimately grant application. OSHPD and CWIB also informed stakeholders about the role the State can play to support their recommendations.

HealthCare Innovations Challenge Grant Overview

On November 14, 2011 CMS released a funding opportunity announcement for the HCIC grant. Under this grant, up to 1 billion dollars will be awarded to projects across the country that test innovative ways to deliver high-quality health care services and lower costs. CMS is looking to fund applicants who propose the most compelling new service delivery and payment models and infrastructure support that will drive system transformation and deliver better outcomes for Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries.

This grant has 3 main objectives:

1. Engage a broad set of innovative partners to identify and test new care delivery and payment models that originate in the field and produce better care, better health, and reduced cost through improvement for identified targets.
2. Identify new models of workforce development and deployment and related training and education that support new models either directly or through new infrastructure activities.
3. Support innovators who can rapidly deploy care improvement models through new ventures or expansion of existing efforts to new populations of patients, in conjunction with other public and private sector partners.

HCIC is looking to encourage applicants to include new models of workforce development and deployment that efficiently support their service delivery model proposal. Enhanced infrastructure to support more cost effective system-wide function is also a critical component of health care system transformation, and applicants are encouraged to include this as an element of their proposal.

Eligible applicants include: provider groups, health systems, payers, community-collaborative, for-profit organizations, community-based organizations, local governments, private sector organizations, and faith-based organizations. The grant emphasizes the need for partnerships

between these groups especially public-private as that can possibly enhance the sustainability of the proposal

Funding will range from \$1 to \$30 million per awardee. Funding is intended to support the initial start-up costs and support over the limited period of time necessary for the model to demonstrate its potential to add value.

The letters of inquiry are due by December 19, 2011

Application due January 27, 2012.

Award expected to be granted by March 30, 2012.

Second round of applicants awarded in August (if funds are still available)

More detailed information on the Grant can be located at CMS website.

<http://innovations.cms.gov/>

CMS conducted three webinars providing a more detailed overview of the grant along with information on how to design an effective project and how to achieve lower costs. The recordings for these webinars can also be found through CMS innovations website.

CMS Contact: Mary Greene: Mary.greene@cms.hhs.gov

Reminder: In order to apply all applicants must obtain a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) and a Central Contractor Registration number. These take a couple of weeks so potential applicants should apply to get these numbers ASAP. More information on how to obtain these numbers can be found through grants.gov

HCIC Grant Strategies Alignment with States Recommendations

The State embarked on a year-long effort to engage stakeholders and gather recommendations that aim to sustain and increase healthcare workforce in California. OSHPD and CWIB engaged in various activities including the development of the Health Workforce Development Council and its Sub-Committee's, regional focus groups, and engagement in stakeholder groups where the state gathered over 100 recommendations. Many of these recommendations align with strategies emphasized under the Health Care Innovations Challenge and can be cited or used to strengthen the application.

Strategies emphasized in Grant

- New care models
- Information technology infrastructure
- Data support
- Infrastructure support
- Development of collaborative partnerships
- Development of health care workers of the future
 - Team Based Approach
 - Community Health Workers
 - Nurse Coordination Care
 - Community based paramedics

- Personal and Home Care Aids
- Innovative Training
- New payment and reimbursement models

HCIC grant strategies that align with State recommendations can be located on OSHPD HCR website: <http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/Reform/>

Please remember that any further questions regarding the grant should be directed to CMS. Information about the states recommendation and the states involvement can be sent to HCRWorkforce@oshpd.ca.gov.

States Support to Applicants

The OSHPD and CWIB partnership will provide letters of support to grant applicants upon request. In your request please include, the addressee, the amount of your grant request, your grant objectives, and any other information you would like the state to consider. Requests for letters of support must be submitted by January 13, 2012 to HCRWorkforce@oshpd.ca.gov.

If you are interested in requesting a letter of support from the Assembly Health Committee, please submit your request to:
Moreen Lane, CWIB staff
Moreen.Lane@cwib.ca.gov

The State will conduct a brief survey to gain further insight on the type of proposals that will be submitted across California and the areas of emphasis. The survey results will also help the state to identify the types of letter of support that will be requested as well as assess statewide health workforce, policy and planning efforts. With respondents permission we can share the list and include contact information in case organizations would like to pursue additional partners.