



AFFORDABLE CARE ACT MASSACHUSETTS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

January 11, 2016

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

Accountable Health Communities, \$3021. Announced January 5, 2016.

Funding is available to test whether systematically identifying the health-related social needs of community-dwelling Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries, and subsequently addressing their identified needs, will have an impact on those beneficiaries' total health care costs and their inpatient and outpatient utilization of health care services.

Eligible applicants include city, town and county governments; public and private institutions of higher education; nonprofit and for profit organizations; and federally recognized Native American tribal governments. \$13,304,000 is available for 44 awards.

Mandatory Letters of Intent are due February 8, 2016.

Applications are due March 31, 2016.

View the announcement at GRANTS.GOV

Pipeline to Proposal Awards Initiative Tier I Cycle 3 - Pre-Engagement/Community Projects, \$6301. Announced January 5, 2016.

Funding is available for community engagement and capacity building necessary to develop a patient-centered comparative effectiveness research project addressing an issue of interest to the awardee. This opportunity is intended to support individuals and groups who may not have other opportunities for research funding.

Eligible applicants include individuals, consumer and patient organizations, clinicians, researchers, or a combination of these applicants. \$15,000 for individual awards is available.

The Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI), created under ACA §6301, is an independent nonprofit organization, tasked with conducting patient-centered outcomes research and studies.

For more information about PCORI, visit: [PCORI](#)

Required Letters of Intent are due January 20, 2016.

Applications are due April 18, 2016.

The announcement may be viewed at [PCORI.ORG](#)

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

12/30/15 HHS/CMS issued a correction to the final rule called "Medicare Program; End-Stage Renal Disease Prospective Payment System, and Quality Incentive Program." The document corrects technical errors in the [final rule](#) that was published in the Federal Register on November 6, 2015.

The rule implements portions of ACA §3127 and 3401. The final rule updates and makes revisions to the End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Prospective Payment System for calendar year 2016. According to CMS, the rule ensures that ESRD facilities receive accurate Medicare payment amounts for furnishing outpatient maintenance dialysis treatments during calendar year 2016. The rule also establishes requirements for the ESRD Quality Incentive Program.

Read the correction (which was published in the Federal Register on December 31, 2015) at: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-12-31/pdf/2015-32967.pdf>

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

Upcoming Events

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

Implementation Council Meeting
January 15, 2016
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
1 Ashburton Place, 21st Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Implementation Council LTSS Subcommittee Meeting
January 29, 2016
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM
Transportation Building, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, Conference Room 4
Boston, MA 02116

At all 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

This information was provided by the One Care Implementation Council. Any information or opinions contained therein are the express views of the Implementation Council and are not endorsed by or binding on EOHHS or MassHealth.

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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