



AFFORDABLE CARE ACT MASSACHUSETTS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

March 28, 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

Immunization Grants – Strengthening Public Health Laboratories (PHL), \$4002. Announced March 23, 2016.

Continued funding is available to improve PHL infrastructure, develop a well-trained and maintained PHL workforce, and strengthen the PHL system in order to promote quality and safe laboratory practice in the entire health system as it pertains to public health in the United States and globally.

Eligible applicants are limited to organizations previously awarded funding under this opportunity.

Applications are due May 15, 2016.

View the announcement at: GRANTS.GOV

National Diabetes Prevention Program: Preventing Type 2 Diabetes Among People at High Risk, \$4002. Announced March 22, 2016.

Funding is available to expand and sustain the National Diabetes Prevention Program (National DPP). The National DPP is a partnership of public and private organizations that work together in order to reduce the growing problem of prediabetes and type 2 diabetes. These organizations work to make it easier for people with prediabetes to participate in evidence-based, affordable, and high-quality lifestyle change programs to reduce their risk of developing type 2 diabetes and improve their overall health.

Eligible applicants include nonprofit and for profit organizations, faith-based organizations and Indian/Native American Tribal governments previously funded through this program. \$19,817,019 is available for fifty awards.

Applications are due April 18, 2016.

To learn more about the National DPP, visit: CDC.GOV

View the announcement at: GRANTS.GOV

Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program, \$2951. Announced March 18, 2016.

Funding is available to coordinate and deliver critical health care, development, early learning, child abuse and neglect prevention, and family support services to children and their families through home visiting programs.

Eligible applicants are limited to states and organizations previously awarded funding under this opportunity, including the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. \$18,000,000 is available for ten awards.

Applications are due May 17, 2016.

View the announcement 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

3/18/16 HHS/CMS issued a notice under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) seeking comments on a new information collection related to the Establishment of Exchanges and Qualified Health Plans; Exchange Standards for Employers.

ACA §1321 requires HHS to issue regulations setting standards for meeting the requirements under the ACA including the offering of qualified health plans through Exchanges (Marketplaces). HHS issued a [final rule](#) (which was published in the Federal Register on March 27, 2012) called the "Establishment of Exchanges and Qualified Health Plans; Exchange Standards for Employers." The final rule contains provisions that mandate reporting and data collections necessary to ensure that health insurance issuers are meeting the requirements of the ACA.

According to HHS, this information request will assist the agency with the creation of a seamless and coordinated system of eligibility and enrollment. Furthermore, as stated by HHS, the data collected by health insurance issuers will help to inform the agency, Exchanges, and health insurance issuers as to the participation of individuals, employers, and employees in an individual Exchange.

Comments are due April 18, 2016.

Read the notice at: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-03-18/pdf/2016-06191.pdf>

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

News

3/22/16 The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) Board of Governors authorized \$22 million in funding to compare treatment options for chronic lower back pain. \$12.5 million was also awarded for five Patient-Powered Research Network (PPRN) demonstration projects.

PCORI authorized up to \$22 million to study ways to improve treatment of chronic lower back pain, a leading cause of disability and one of the most frequent reasons adults seek medical care. A funding announcement for patient-centered comparative clinical effectiveness (CER) projects focusing on lower back pain will be issued in April of 2016, soliciting studies comparing optimal clinical strategies that both do and don't include spinal fusion surgery.

Additionally, \$12.5 million in funding was awarded for five PPRN demonstration projects. These awards are the latest issued as part of PCORI's National Patient-Centered Clinical Research Network (PCORnet) initiative. PCORnet aims to harness the power of health data and patient partnerships to allow the nation to conduct patient-centered CER more efficiently and at lower cost than previously possible.

The five awards will be used for 1) a study on reducing depression disparities being conducted at the Regents of the University of California in California, 2) a study on the comparative effectiveness and safety of biologic therapies at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in Alabama, 3) a study on improving treatment and outcomes for patients living with overlapping chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and sleep apnea at the COPD Foundation, Inc. in Florida, 4) a study on the effectiveness of specific carbohydrate and Mediterranean diets to induce remission in patients with Crohn's disease at Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America, Inc. in New York and 5) a study on healthy hearts and healthy minds being conducted at Massachusetts General Hospital in Massachusetts.

Created under ACA §6301, PCORI is an independent nonprofit organization, tasked with conducting patient-centered outcomes research and studies.

To learn more about these awards, visit: [PCORI](#)

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

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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