



AFFORDABLE CARE ACT MASSACHUSETTS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

June 6, 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

Pipeline to Proposal Awards Independent Tier III – Proposal Development Projects, \$6301.
Announced May 31, 2016.

Funding is available to develop research proposals that are scientifically sound and have robust patient engagement. Approved projects should help integrate patients, caregivers, clinicians, and other healthcare stakeholders as members of the patient-centered outcomes research or comparative effectiveness research (CER) process.

Eligible applicants must be a research partnership team who identifies a CER question and would benefit from increasing their partnership to craft a CER proposal. Up to \$50,000 is available for qualified projects.

Applications are due September 30, 2016.

View the announcement at: PCORI.ORG

To learn more about PCORI, visit: PCORI.ORG

Alzheimer's Disease Initiative - Specialized Supportive Services, \$4002. Announced May 25, 2016.

Funding is available to help support established dementia-capable home and community based service systems that provide care for individuals living with or those who are at high risk of developing Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Awarded funding should help provide quality, person-centered services that allow people living with Alzheimer's disease to remain independent and safe in their communities.

Eligible applicants include town, city, county, state and special district governments (specially designated subdivisions of state government as described in the grant announcement); for profit and nonprofit organizations; small businesses; public, state and private institutions of higher education; independent school districts; public housing authorities; Indian housing authorities, federally recognized tribal governments and Native American tribal organizations. \$9,803,311 is available for ten awards.

Applications are due July 24, 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

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

Commonwealth of MA News

5/23/16 CMS authorized flexibility for Massachusetts to maintain its merged insurance market for non-group and small group commercial insurance. In response to a joint request from the Massachusetts Health Connector and the Division of Insurance, CMS agreed that Massachusetts can maintain rolling enrollment throughout the year for small businesses and quarterly small group premium rate refreshing within its merged market.

This request was formulated as a result of Massachusetts' exploration of a State Innovation Waiver under ACA § 1332. During this exploration, stakeholders unanimously supported seeking flexibility to retain Massachusetts' unique "hybrid" merged market structure, which was created under state health reform in Chapter 58 of the Acts of 2006. This merged market structure has promoted affordability for individuals while maintaining familiar enrollment cycles for businesses. CMS has determined that the current market structure provides appropriate consumer protections and will permit Massachusetts to continue its version of a merged market.

Learn more at: <https://betterhealthconnector.com/about/policy-center/state-innovation-waiver>.

Upcoming Events

Money Follows the Person (MFP) Semi-Annual Informational Meeting

Wednesday, June 29, 2016
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM
John W. McCormack Building
One Ashburton Place - 21st floor Conference Rooms
Boston, MA 02108

Please contact MFP@state.ma.us by June 6, 2016 to RSVP and to request reasonable accommodations.

Although RSVPs are greatly appreciated, they are not required.

Click [link](#) for directions and parking information.

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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