



## AFFORDABLE CARE ACT MASSACHUSETTS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

December 16, 2013

### 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

**Nurse Anesthetist Traineeship (NAT) Program, \$5308.** Announced December 9, 2013. The purpose of the Nurse Anesthetist Traineeship (NAT) Program is to provide traineeship support for licensed registered nurses enrolled as full-time students in a master's or doctoral nurse anesthesia program. Traineeships will pay full or partial costs of the tuition, books, fees, and the reasonable living expenses of the individual during the period for which the traineeship is provided. Eligible applicants are schools of nursing, nursing centers, academic health centers, state or local governments and other public or private nonprofit entities determined appropriate by the US Department of Education Secretary that are accredited for the provision of nurse anesthesia education. \$2.25M in 80 awards is available. Applications are due January 16, 2014.

Supplemental information (for applicants who successfully submit applicants) is due January 30, 2014.

The announcement can be viewed at: [HRSA](#)

**Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship (AENT) Program, \$5308.** Announced December 9, 2013. The purpose of the AENT program funding opportunity announcement for FY 2014 is to increase the number of primary care providers by providing traineeships to students who are pursuing advanced degrees as primary care nurse practitioners or nurse-midwives. The traineeships will cover full or partial tuition, books, fees, and reasonable living expenses. Eligible applicants are schools of nursing, nursing centers, academic health centers, state or local governments and other public or private nonprofit entities accredited

by a national nurse education accrediting agency recognized by the US Department of Education Secretary. Eligible applicants may include faith-based and community-based organizations, tribes and tribal organizations. \$22.75M in 65 awards is available.

Applications are due January 16, 2014.

The announcement can be viewed at: [HRSA](#)

**Advanced Nursing Education (ANE) Program, \$5308.** Announced December 5, 2013. The purpose of the ANE Program is to support the enhancement of advanced nursing education and practice. ANE grant funding is available to provide interprofessional education (IPE) opportunities for nursing students in the integration of care for individuals with Multiple Chronic Conditions (MCC). Eligible applicants include schools of nursing, nursing centers, academic health centers, state or local governments, and other public or private nonprofit entities determined appropriate by the HHS Secretary. All applicants must be accredited to provide the advanced education programs outlined in this funding opportunity announcement. Successful applicants will use grant funds to address the health care needs of persons with MCC within the IPE education model and in the advanced nursing program. \$16.125M in 43 awards is available.

Applications are due January 28, 2014.

The announcement can be viewed at: [HRSA](#)

## 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: [Mass.Gov](#)

## Guidance

**12/12/13 The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) issued a notice regarding** the final rule "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Establishment of the Multi-State Program for the Affordable Insurance Exchanges." The notice announces that the effective date of the final rule's provision relating to external review is December 13, 2013.

The [final rule](#) (which was published in the Federal Register on March 11, 2013) implements the Multi-State Plan Program (MSPP) under ACA §1334 which requires the OPM, which administers the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHBP), to contract with at least two Multi-State Plans (MSPs) on each of the Affordable Insurance Exchanges.

The MSPP is intended to promote competition in the insurance marketplace and help ensure individuals and small employers have higher quality, affordable health insurance plans from which to choose beginning in 2014. An MSPP issuer may phase in the States in which it offers coverage over four years, but it must offer MSPs on Exchanges in all States and the District of Columbia by the fourth year in which the MSPP issuer participates in the MSPP. Health insurance issuers who wish to offer MSPs will complete an application. Although the MSPP is a federal program it will offer products through the state-level exchanges. In addition to compliance with the ACA's requirements that apply to all qualified health plans (QHPs), MSP's must also comply with applicable FEHBP requirements and be licensed by the states in which they do business. Under the ACA, OPM will negotiate a contract with each multi-state QHP in order for that plan to be certified for participation in that state's Exchange. QHPs are health plans that have been certified by an Exchange, provide essential health benefits (§1301) and follow established limits on cost-sharing (like deductibles, copayments, and out-of-pocket maximum amounts).

The ACA requires implementation of a uniform, nationally applicable external review process for MSP options, similar to the process administered by OPM under the FEHB Program. This process will ensure that MSP Program contracts are administered consistently throughout all 51 jurisdictions that would be served by

an MSP option. In addition to requests for external review, MSP enrollees may contact OPM about inquiries or complaints regarding MSP options, which may be referred to other appropriate entities such as state insurance departments, state consumer assistance programs, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

On November 13, 2013, the Departments of Treasury, Labor, and Health and Human Services jointly published "Final Rules under the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) of 2008; Technical Amendment to External Review for Multi-State Plan Program". The [MHPAEA final rules](#) retain provisions from the March 21, 2013 final rule, while implementing a technical amendment related to external review. The MHPAEA final rules specify that §1334 requires that MSP insurers must comply with either a state external review process or the federal external review process.

Read the notice at: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-12-12/pdf/2013-29702.pdf>

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

## Upcoming Events

### **Integrating Medicare and Medicaid for Dual Eligible Individuals Implementation Council Meeting**

Friday, December 20, 2013

1:00 PM -3:00 PM

State Transportation Building, Conference Room 1-3

10 Park Plaza

Boston, MA

Meetings of the Implementation Council are open to 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](mailto:Donna.Kymalainen@state.ma.us).

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.