

MRT INNOVATIONS IN SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH INITIATIVE

The New York Department of Health – Office of Health Insurance Programs (OHIP), Bureau of Social Determinants of Health, is launching a new initiative designed to identify innovative new or existing ideas for how to effectively address the Social Determinants of Health (SDH) for Medicaid members across New York. The State will soon launch a Request for Innovation (RFI) initiative that will solicit proposals from Community-based Organizations (CBOs) across New York, throughout the country, and from entities around the world that will be evaluated by a team of national experts. Top proposals will receive special recognition but all proposals will be made public.

The initiative's primary goal is to help healthcare providers, Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), and DSRIP Performing Provider Systems (PPS) as they seek creative ways to address SDH needs of the members they serve. This is a crucial time in the State's efforts to effectively address the Social Determinants of Health--PPS are in a vital performance phase and all providers and MCOs are actively moving into Value Based Payment (VBP) arrangements. It is important to note that New York is the only state in the nation that requires advanced VBP contractors to identify a social determinant of health relevant to the population they serve and contract with a CBO to address that need. This RFI will help all those entities identify new strategies that could be deployed successfully to assist them in their important population health work.

Program Specifics

- DOH will release the RFI requirements on May 1, 2018
- The RFI will solicit innovative new approaches for addressing the social determinants of health in three categories.
 - Proposals made by Tier 1 CBOs
 - Proposals made by all other CBOs
 - Proposals made by other providers/organizations including IT solutions that support efforts to address SDH.
- Proposals will be reviewed by a team of experts convened by DOH. The team will include representatives from MCOs, PPS, and foundations as well as patient/member advocates. Experts in the field will also be asked to participate.
- Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
 - Potential Return on Investment
 - Scalability
 - Evidence-based practices
 - Relevance to the Medicaid population
 - Speed to market (how quickly the strategy could be launched)
- Proposals that specifically address the needs of young children, especially within the child's first 1,000 days of life, and complex families will be given additional points in the evaluation process.
- Proposals will be due to the department June 1, 2018.
- Winners will be announced by July 15, 2018.
- Winners will have an opportunity to present their ideas directly to PPS, MCOs and VBP contractors at a conference that DOH will host in August.

Next Steps

The department is accepting comments on this program effective immediately. Any comments or suggestions should be submitted to the email below. Additionally, if you are interested in serving on the review panel and you don't have any potential conflicts of interest please submit your resume and cover letter stating why you are qualified to participate to the same email.

Contact Person – Elizabeth Misa, Deputy State Medicaid Director

Questions, comments or suggestions can be sent to SDH@health.ny.gov.