



STATE OF MARYLAND

Community Health Resources Commission

45 Calvert Street, Annapolis, MD 21401, Room 336

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
John A. Hurson, Chairman – Mark Luckner, Executive Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**COMMISSION ISSUES REQUEST FOR GRANT PROPOSALS
APPLICATIONS DUE SEPTEMBER 27
Information call scheduled for August 23rd at noon**

Annapolis (August 18, 2011) The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (CHRC) issued today its Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit grant proposals to expand access for underserved communities, address minority health disparities, and assist community health resources in health reform implementation in the coming year. Click here for the RFP: (<http://www.dhmh.state.md.us/mchrc/pdf/2011/CHRC-FY-12-Request-for-Proposals-August-18-2011.pdf>).

The CHRC is a quasi-independent commission within the Maryland Department of Health & Mental Hygiene (DHMH), and its 11 members are appointed by the Governor. Over the last five years, the Commission has awarded 78 grants, totaling \$21.6 million, and these grants have collectively provided access to health care services to more than 94,000 Marylanders.

A public conference call will be held to answer any questions from potential interested applicants on **Tuesday, August 23, at 12 noon**. The public may participate by calling **1-(636) 651-3181**, **Access Code: 8109602**. Letters of Intent are due to the Commission on September 1 and full grant proposals are due to the CHRC on September 27.

The CHRC's RFP builds on ongoing efforts to support the highest health care priorities articulated by DHMH. Following are the five areas of focus of this year's RFP:

- (1) ***Increasing Access to Comprehensive Women's Health Services and Reducing Infant Mortality;***
- (2) ***Providing Dental Care for Low-Income Children;***
- (3) ***Supporting New Access Points and Building Health Care Infrastructure in Primary Care Settings;***
- (4) ***Integrating Behavioral Health Services in the Community;*** and
- (5) ***Facilitating Adoption of Health Information Technology.***

"The Commission is dedicated to focusing on the greatest unmet health care needs in the community," commented John A. Hurson, Chairman, Maryland Community Health Resources Commission. "We are looking to support programs that are innovative, sustainable, and will have a major impact in terms of expanding access."

In recent years, the Commission has worked with DHMH to support programs that will help reduce infant mortality, expand access to dental care for low-income children, increase access to behavioral health services in the community, and invest in health information technology.

“The Commission is a critical partner in the state’s ongoing efforts to expand access,” commented Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein, Secretary, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. “The Department is looking forward to working with the Commission as we implement the Affordable Care Act.”

The final report of the Governor’s Health Care Reform Coordinating Council requested the Commission to develop a business plan outlining how the state could provide ongoing technical assistance and support to community health resources. This recommendation became the subject of legislation introduced by Delegate James W. Hubbard and Senator Thomas “Mac” Middleton (HB 450/SB 514) that was approved by the Maryland General Assembly last year and signed into law by Governor O’Malley this past spring. The Commission will develop actionable recommendations and submit its business plan to the Governor and Maryland General Assembly by the end of the year.

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