

**Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Office of Health Care Quality**

**Health Care Quality Account
FY 2016 Annual Report**



Larry Hogan, Jr., Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Van T. Mitchell, Secretary

Patricia Tomsco Nay, M.D., Executive Director

Overview

The Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) is the agency within the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (Department) charged with monitoring the quality of care in Maryland's health care facilities and community-based programs. OHCQ issues licenses, authorizing the operation of a business in Maryland; recommends certification, authorizing participation in the Medicare and Medicaid programs; conducts surveys to determine compliance with State and federal regulations, which set minimum standards for the delivery of care; and educates providers, consumers, and other stakeholders through written materials, websites, and presentations.

OHCQ's mission is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of Maryland's citizens and to ensure there is public confidence in the health care and community service delivery systems. The Health Care Quality Account (HCQA) grants program is one manner in which OHCQ improves the quality of care and services throughout Maryland. The funds collected from civil money penalties issued to nursing homes and assisted living facilities support activities that improve the quality of life of individuals who reside in nursing homes and assisted living facilities across the State.

Health Care Quality Account Grants Program

Maryland's Health Care Quality Account (HCQA) was established in 2000 by the General Assembly. It is similar in purpose and scope to an account established previously by federal regulation that is used to improve the quality of care provided in nursing homes nationwide. The Maryland HCQA is funded by receipts of civil money penalties (CMP) imposed by the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) to nursing homes and assisted living facilities for noncompliance with regulations. It is comprised of the following three special fund accounts:

- (1) Nursing Home Federal CMP Account: funds collected from nursing homes as a result of civil money penalties imposed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS);
- (2) Nursing Home State CMP State Account: funds collected from nursing homes as a result of civil money penalties imposed by the Office of Health Care Quality; and
- (3) Assisted Living State CMP State Account: funds collected from assisted living providers as a result of civil money penalties imposed by the Office of Health Care Quality. This fund was created by the Maryland General Assembly during 2007.

Each of these three accounts is a non-lapsing special fund. Monies deposited in these accounts are allocated through grant awards in support of education, training, and demonstration projects designed to improve the quality of care provided in Maryland's nursing homes or assisted living programs.

Grants Awards Process

Applications for grant awards from the Health Care Quality Account are accepted throughout the year. Awarded grant amounts vary, and are contingent upon the availability of funds and the number of applications received, approved, and funded.

At a minimum the submitted application must include the following information describing the proposed project:

- Title Page: Project title; applicant organization's name and address; project director's name; and contact information
- Executive Summary: Project's purpose and scope, and summary of entire proposal
- Background and Significance: Impetus for project (i.e., why this project is necessary)
- Project Plan: Description of project-related goals and objectives; activities to be undertaken to accomplish goals and objectives; project timeline (i.e., nuts and bolts of how project will be implemented)
- Consumer and Stakeholder Involvement: Identification of key individual and organizational partners and how they will be engaged in project design and implementation
- Expected Outcomes: Identification of intended beneficiaries and outcomes; deliverables; and plan for sustainability
- Progress and Outcomes Metrics: How progress toward and achievement of expected outcomes will be assessed
- Proposed Project Budget and Justification: Amount of funding needed to accomplish stated goals and objectives; quantified itemization and narrative justification for major categories of anticipated expenditures
- Assurance of Non-Supplantation: Brief description of manner in which project will not re-define, displace or replace current responsibilities of any participating organization to meet existing Medicare or Medicaid requirements, or other statutory or regulatory requirements

Below is the link to the grant application and application guidance:

<http://dhmh.maryland.gov/ohcq/Pages/Grants.aspx>

Required Reporting on Progress

Dependent upon the stated purpose and scope of the approved and funded project, one or more progress reports will be required in addition to a final report outlining key accomplishments, findings and recommendations for future investments in quality improvement.

Applying for a HCQA Grant

The applicant must be qualified and capable of carrying out the intended project and proposed uses of requested funds. Funds may be granted to any entity permitted under State law, provided that the funds are used to protect or improve services for residents of nursing homes or assisted living facilities. Such organizations may include but are not be limited to consumer advocacy organizations, quality improvement organizations, industry trade associations, professional societies and networks, teams located at colleges and universities, teams based within governmental agencies or government-sponsored enterprises, and private contractors. Resident and family councils affiliated with long-term care facilities are also eligible to apply.

For more information about how to apply for a HCQA grant, please click on:

<http://dhmh.maryland.gov/ohcq/docs/Grants/HCQA%20FAQs%20For%20HCQA%20Website%20Revised%20By%20TN%20JP%204%2020%202015.pdf>

Fund Balance and 2016 Awards

As of the end of State Fiscal Year 2016 (June 30, 2016), the current assets balance available was \$1,344,575 in the Nursing Home Federal CMP Account; \$298,132 in the Nursing Home State CMP Account; and \$70,508 in the Assisted Living State CMP Account.

In State Fiscal Year 2016, seven (7) grants were distributed from these accounts. The table lists these grants, including the grantee, funding source, amount awarded, and purpose and scope of the project.

Grantee	Funding Source	Amount	Purpose and Scope
The Beacon Institute	Nursing Home Federal CMP Account	\$225,000	To enable nursing staff employed by skilled nursing facilities to identify and report upon changes in residents' status, thereby pinpointing timely interventions needed to prevent avoidable health complications and hospitalizations.
The Eastern Shore Area Health Education Center	Nursing Home State CMP Account (\$13,857.50) and Assisted Living State CMP Account (\$13,857.50)	\$27,715	To facilitate understanding by consumers and professionals how sensory stimuli, along with other physical and social changes experienced by older adults, may negatively impact upon participation by these adults in their daily routines.
Charles E. Smith Life Communities (Hebrew Home of Greater Washington)	Nursing Home Federal CMP Account (\$32,000) and Nursing Home State CMP Account (\$11,590)	\$43,590	To accelerate adoption and use of INTERACT by post-acute care facilities. INTERACT is a quality improvement program designed to enhance early identification, assessment, and documentation of changes in the health status of residents of skilled nursing facilities.
The Beacon Institute	Nursing Home Federal CMP Account	\$8,750	To provide continuing education to geriatric nursing assistants employed by skilled nursing facilities related to providing care based upon resident's functional capacity, including identifying and responding to depression; addressing oral health needs; incorporating activities into residents' daily routines; implementing safety measures; and reporting on health and behavioral changes.
The Eastern Shore Area Health Education Center	Nursing Home State CMP Account	\$8,337.50	To provide continuing education to certified nursing assistants and geriatric nursing assistants employed by skilled nursing facilities, including identifying and treating depression in long-term care settings; providing oral health care to older adults; preventing pressure ulcers; engaging in safe handling and caregiving with dependent residents; taking a positive approach to managing challenging behaviors of individuals with dementia.
The Mid-Atlantic Public Health Training Center, The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health	Nursing Home State CMP Account	\$119,709	To support the Office of Health Care Quality in reviewing and revising employee training, establishing annual training requirements, and revising training for new surveyors in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.
The Beacon Institute	Nursing Home Federal CMP Account	\$84,990	To improve care transitions for residents presenting with cognitive impairment in skilled nursing facilities.

Contact Information

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