

Maryland Department of Health Office of Health Care Quality

Health Care Quality Account FY 2017 Annual Report



Larry Hogan, Governor

Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Robert Neall, Secretary

Patricia Tomsco Nay, M.D., Executive Director

Overview

The Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) is the agency within the Maryland Department of Health charged with monitoring the quality of care in Maryland's health care facilities and community-based programs. OHCQ's four main functions include:

1. Licensure: OHCQ issues licenses, authorizing the operation of a business in Maryland;
2. Certification: OHCQ recommends certification, authorizing participation in the Medicare and Medicaid programs;
3. Surveys: OHCQ conducts surveys to determine compliance with State and federal regulations, which establish minimum standards for the delivery of care; and
4. Education: OHCQ educates providers, consumers, and other stakeholders through written materials, websites, and presentations.

OHCQ's mission is to protect the health and safety of Marylanders 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 way that OHCQ improves the quality of care and services throughout the State. 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 Maryland's nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

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) on nursing homes or assisted living facilities for serious noncompliance with regulations. It is comprised of the following three special fund accounts:

1. Federal Nursing Home (FNH) Account: funds collected from nursing homes from civil money penalties imposed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS);
2. State Nursing Home (SNH) Account: funds collected from nursing homes from civil money penalties imposed by the Office of Health Care Quality; and

3. State Assisted Living (SAL) Account: funds collected from assisted living providers from 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. A balance is maintained in these accounts in the event the funds are needed for any weather-related or other emergencies that affect residents of nursing homes or assisted living programs.

Grants Award 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; and
- Assurance of Non-Supplantation: Brief description of how the 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.

The HCQA Grant Committee reviews all complete grant proposals according to the established criteria. The committee includes the following individuals:

- Executive Director, OHCQ
- Deputy Director for Federal Programs, OHCQ
- Deputy Director for State Programs, OHCQ
- Chief Fiscal Officer, OHCQ
- Chief Nurse, OHCQ
- Assistant Inspector General, Maryland Department of Health, Office of the Inspector General
- Assistant Attorney General, OHCQ

The use of State funds can be determined directly by the committee. Proposals for federal funding must be submitted to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for review and approval. OHCQ cannot approve the use of the federal funds, nor can OHCQ advocate with CMS on behalf of grant applicants.

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.

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

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

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 improve the quality of care provided to 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>

Available Funds

In State Fiscal Year 2017, eleven grants were distributed from these accounts. As of the end of State Fiscal Year 2017 (June 30, 2017), the current assets balance available was \$3,991,825 in the Nursing Home Federal CMP Account; \$36,963 in the Nursing Home State CMP Account; and \$26,288 in the Assisted Living State CMP Account.

Grants Awarded

Table 1 shows the geographic distribution of the FY 17 grants that were awarded. Each map pin represents the location of the program or entity that received the grant.

Table 1: Geographic Distribution of FY 17 Grants

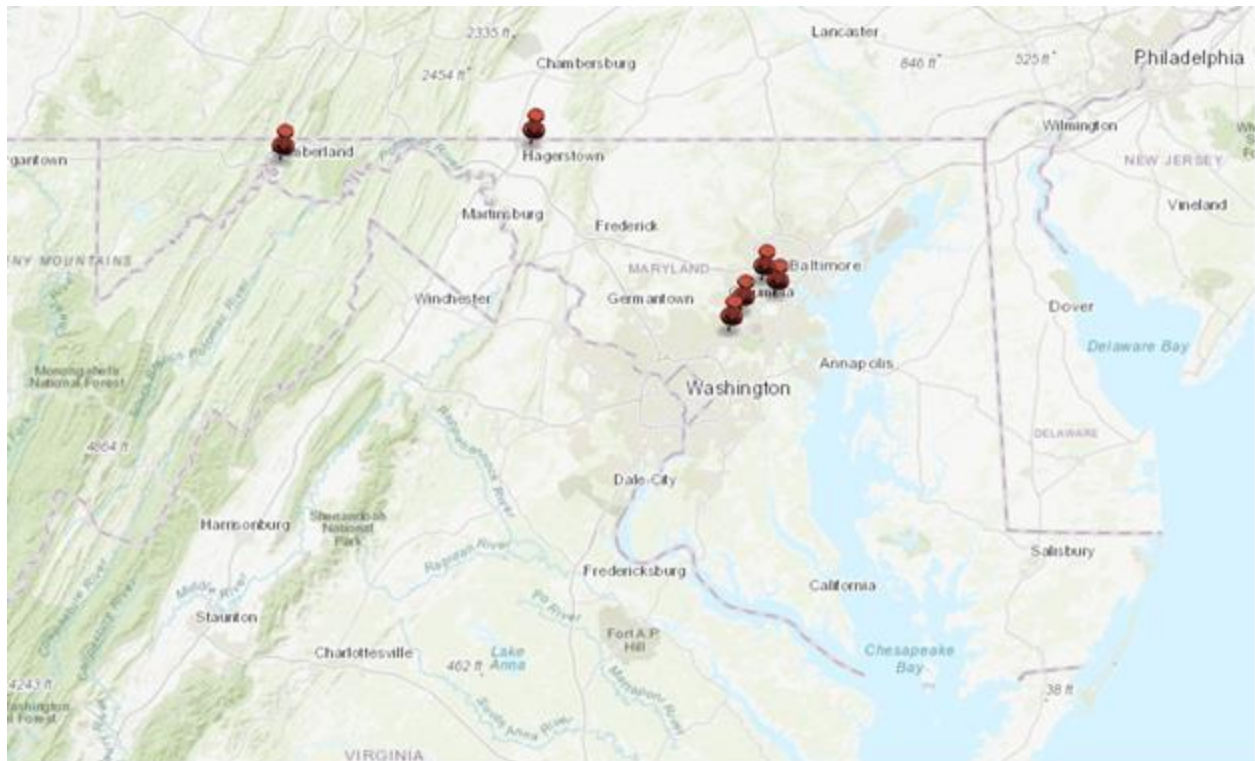


Table 2 lists the grants awarded in Fiscal Year 2017, including the grantee, funding source, amount awarded, and purpose and scope of the project.

Table 2: 2017 Health Care Quality Account Grant Awards

Grantee	Funding Source	Amount Awarded	Purpose and Scope
Community Health Education and Research Corporation	State AL	\$35,000	To provide continuing education and training to assisted living staff and care providers in mental health first aid solutions by improving identification of symptoms of mental health disorders, improving staff working environment, and fostering better relationships between staff and residents.
Health Facilities Association of Maryland	Federal NH	\$109,850	To provide continuing education and certification to employees of skilled nursing facilities in physiology of the skin, underlying tissues, wound prevention, wound assessment, and wound healing.
The Beacon Institute	Federal NH	\$80,189	To provide continuing education for nursing home staff in Quality Assurance Program Improvement to prevent pressure ulcers, falls and infections; reduce medication errors; reduce complaints from residents and families; and reduce survey deficiencies.
The Beacon Institute	State NH	\$76,781	To provide continuing education to both health care professionals and the public about the use of Maryland's Medical Order for Life Sustaining Treatment order form.
The Beacon Institute	Federal NH	\$100,889	To implement The CARES® online training program in nursing homes to improve staff education and training in Alzheimer and dementia person-centered care.
The Beacon Institute	State AL	\$32,161	To implement The CARES® online training program in assisted living facilities to improve staff education and training in Alzheimer and dementia person-centered care.
The Beacon Institute	Federal NH	\$82,800	To provide nursing home discharge planners, residents, and caregivers with a toolkit for organizing successful and safe transitions from nursing homes to community settings.
The Beacon Institute	Federal NH	\$8,750	To strengthen the ability of Geriatric Nurse Assistants to observe changes in residents' physical and mental status to improve the care of residents.
LW Consulting Inc.	State and Federal NH	\$493,155	To implement a safe and orderly relocation of residents from a closing long term care facility to other settings.
Allegany College of Maryland	Federal NH	\$7,415	To provide continuing education to Certified Nurses Assistants and Geriatric Nurses Assistants in communicating with dementia patients, interacting with mental illness, situational awareness safety, documentation, and diffusing volatile situations.
The Mid-Atlantic Public Health Training Center, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health	State NH	\$116,901	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.

Contact Information

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