Office of Health Care Quality

Health Care Quality Account

FY 2019 Annual Report

Larry Hogan, Governor

Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Robert Neall, Secretary

Frances B. Phillips, RN, MHA, Deputy Secretary for Public Health

Patricia Tomsko Nay, MD, 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 to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), 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. Technical Assistance: OHCQ gives technical assistance to providers, consumers, and other stakeholders.

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 CMS;

2. State Nursing Home (SNH) Account: funds collected from nursing homes from civil money penalties imposed by OHCQ; and

3. State Assisted Living (SAL) Account: funds collected from assisted living providers from civil money penalties imposed by OHCQ. This fund was created by the Maryland General Assembly in 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:

- Deputy Director for Long Term Care, 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 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:

https://health.maryland.gov/ohcq/Pages/GrantsProgram.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:

https://health.maryland.gov/ohcq/docs/Grants/HCQA%20FAQs%20For%20HCQA%20Website%20Revised%20By%20TN%20JP%204%2020%202015.pdf

Available Funds

In State Fiscal Year 2019, 6 grants were distributed from these accounts. As of the end of State Fiscal Year 2019 (June 30, 2019), the current assets balance available was $8,513,693 in the Nursing Home Federal CMP Account; $98,815 in the Nursing Home State CMP Account; and $51,288 in the Assisted Living State CMP Account.

Grants Awarded

Table 1 shows the geographic distribution of the FY 19 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 19 Grants

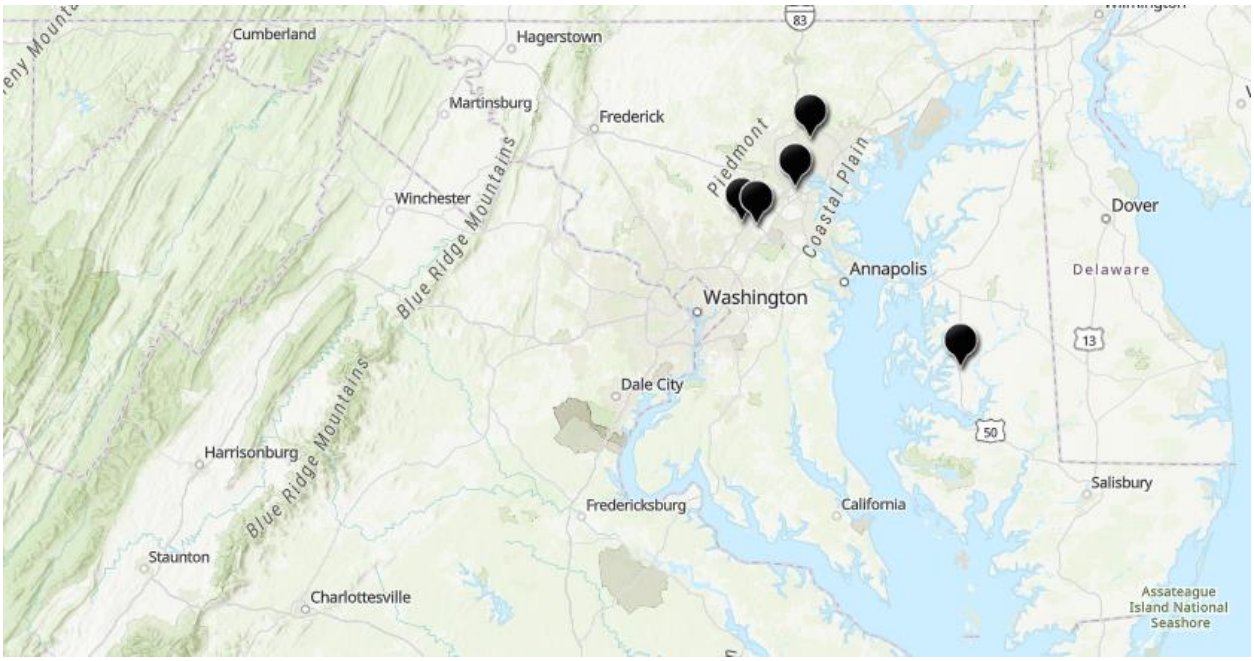

Table 2 lists the grants awarded in Fiscal Year 2019, including the grantee, funding source, amount awarded, and purpose and scope of the project.

Table 2: FY 19 Health Care Quality Account Grant Awards

Grantee	Funding Source	Amount Awarded	Purpose and Scope
Pioneer Network in Culture Change	Federal NH	$193,875	Provide a specialized training program for care of individuals with brain injury in Maryland nursing homes. The program will address brain injury related needs and service gaps currently facing the nursing and direct care staff of Maryland nursing homes.
Community Health Education and Research Corporation	Federal NH	$35,866	Provide mental health first aid training to staff and care providers in Prince Georges and Montgomery County nursing homes with the goal of improving quality of care and health of consumers and residents.
Office of Health Care Quality	Federal NH	$61,000	Provide awareness of the HCQA grant program to stakeholders, grantees, and OHCQ through education, seminars, and technical support.
Genesis Healthcare Canton Manor	Federal NH	$128,920	In addition to traditional skilled nursing and rehabilitation services provided in skilled nursing homes, offer patients with a substance abuse disorder various services to support a life in recovery from drug use. The care delivery will support on-going access to recovery services that may supplement services initiated during the hospital stay or at discharge.
Vohra Post Acute Care Physicians of the East, PA	Federal NH	$85,700	Provide scholarships in order to train and certify 150 eligible nurses within the approximately 230 skilled nursing homes in Maryland.
Mental Health Association of Maryland	Federal NH	$271,570	Provide a live training program designed to improve the lives of older adults living in nursing homes. The training emphasizes hands-on skills development and utilizes interactive exercises, case studies, and role playing exercises to achieve its goals.

Contact Information

Office of Health Care Quality
7120 Samuel Morse Drive
Second Floor
Columbia, Maryland 21046-3422

410-402-8015 or 877-402-8218
https://health.maryland.gov/ohcq