Office of Health Care Quality

Health Care Quality Account Grants Program

SFY 2021 Annual Report

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Overview of the Office of Health Care Quality

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 OHCQ on nursing homes or assisted living facilities for serious noncompliance with regulations. It is comprised of the following five 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;
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;
4. Hospice Account: funds collected from hospices from civil money penalties imposed by CMS; and

5. Office of the Inspector General Account: funds collected from providers from civil money penalties imposed by the Office of the Inspector General.

Each of these separate 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 funds are needed for any natural disasters, pandemics or other deemed emergencies that affect residents of nursing homes or assisted living programs.

Grant Award Process

Applications for grant awards from the HCQA are accepted throughout the year. Awarded grant amounts vary and are contingent upon the availability of funds. 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, 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, MDH, Office of the Inspector General
- Assistant Attorney General, OHCQ

Grants for state funds are reviewed and determined by the committee. Proposals for federal funding must be submitted to Centers for Medicaid Services (CMS) for review and approval. OHCQ cannot approve the use of 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 findings, key accomplishments, and recommendations for future projects in quality improvement.

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

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

Criteria for a Grant Application

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. All requests should align with the priorities within the focus areas associated with quality of care associated with the residents.

Such organizations may include but are not 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/Pages/GrantsProgram.aspx

Available Funds

As of the end of State Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2021, the current assets balance available was $11,410,570.78 in the Nursing Home Federal CMP Account; $1,564,344.63 in the Nursing Home State CMP Account; $53,288.00 in the Assisted Living State CMP Account; $0 in the Hospice account; and $166,671.75 in the Office of the Inspector General Account.

Administrative and Operating Costs

In order to provide awareness of the HCQA grant program to stakeholders, and grantees, through education, seminars, and technical support, CMS covers the personnel and operational cost for the HCQA grant administrator from the Federal Nursing Home account.

Grants Awarded

Table 1 includes the grants awarded in Fiscal Year 2021 including the grantee, funding source, amount awarded, and purpose and scope of the project forwarded from Fiscal Year 2020. Table 2 lists the grant specifically awarded in Fiscal Year 2021 including the grantee, funding source, amount awarded, and purpose and scope of the project.

In response to COVID-19, CMS approved funding for communicative devices and visitation aids in nursing homes. CMS developed an application template for nursing homes that allowed states to approve COVID-19 grant applications for the purpose of communication technology and the use of visitation aids to implement safe visitation practices. The communication technology grant allows nursing home residents to engage in virtual social and telehealth visits. Facilities may use up to $3,000 for communication technology. Applications that included a request of greater than $3,000 were forwarded to CMS for their review for final approval.

Table 3 lists the grants awarded in Fiscal Year 2021, including the grantee, funding source, amount awarded, and purpose and scope of the project specifically in response to COVID-19 communicative devices. Table 4 lists the grants awarded in Fiscal Year 2021, including the grantee, funding source, amount awarded, and purpose and scope of the project in specifically in response to COVID-19 visitation aids.

Table 1: SFY 21 Health Care Quality Account Grant Awards Forwarded from SFY 20

Grantee	Funding Source	Amount Awarded	Purpose and Scope
Pioneer Network in Culture Change	Federal NH	$24,234.38	Provide a specialized training program for care of individuals with brain injuries in Maryland nursing homes. The program will address brain injury related needs and service gaps facing the nursing and direct care staff of Maryland nursing homes.
Mental Health Association of Maryland	Federal NH	$90,523.32	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.

Table 2: SFY 21 Health Care Quality Account Grant Awards

Grantee	Funding Source	Amount Awarded	Purpose and Scope
The Beacon Institute	Federal NH	$71,385.00	Provide a specialized training program for care of individuals with brain injuries in Maryland nursing homes. The program will address brain injury related needs and service gaps facing the nursing and direct care staff of Maryland nursing homes.

Table 3: SFY 21 Health Care Quality Account Grant Awards
COVID-19 Communicative Technology

Grantee	Funding Source	Amount Awarded	Purpose and Scope
Adelphi Nursing and Rehab Center	Federal NH	$3,000.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits.
Asbury Foundation, Inc.	Federal NH	$4,361.67	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits.
Birch Manor Center for Rehab and Healthcare	Federal NH	$830.99	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits.
Oasis Rehab and Nursing (Calvert County)	Federal NH	$3,150.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits.
Carroll Lutheran Village	Federal NH	$3,638.35	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits.
Randallstown Nursing and Rehab LLC (Chapel Hill)	Federal NH	$3,005.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits.
Clinton Health Care Center	Federal NH	$3,000.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits.
Colington	Federal NH	$1,224.86	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits.
Crescent Cities SNF LLC	Federal NH	$3,000.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits.
Crofton Care and Rehab Center	Federal NH	$2,995.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits.
Genesis Healthcare Inc. (Doctor's Community)	Federal NH	$2,795.92	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits.
Elkton SNF, LLC	Federal NH	$3,000.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits
Genesis Healthcare Inc.	Federal NH	$67,102.08	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits for all sites.
Green House Resident Care and Rehab Center	Federal NH	$3,000.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits.
Hagerstown Healthcare Center	Federal NH	$2,982.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits.
Hillhaven Nursing and Rehab (MH Adelphi Operating	Federal NH	$2,140.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits.
Hyattsville Nursing and Rehab	Federal NH	$3,000.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits.

Table 3: SFY 21 Health Care Quality Account Grant Awards
COVID-19 Communicative Technology

Grantee	Funding Source	Amount Awarded	Purpose and Scope
Largo Nursing and Rehab	Federal NH	$3,000.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits.
Layhill SNF LLC	Federal NH	$3,000.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits.
Lutheran Village at Miller's Grant	Federal NH	$911.85	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits.
Marley Neck Health and Rehab Center	Federal NH	$552.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits.
Oakwood Care Center	Federal NH	$2,906.99	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits.
Potomac Valley Operator LLC	Federal NH	$3,000.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits.
Presbyterian Senior Living	Federal NH	$2,895.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits.
Shady Grove SNF LLC	Federal NH	$3,000.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits.
Signature Healthcare at Mallard Bay	Federal NH	$2,320.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits.
Regency Care of Silver Spring	Federal NH	$2,665.48	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits.
Fundamental Administrative Services	Federal NH	$29,635.41	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits for all sites.
Ravenwood Nursing	Federal NH	$2,960.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits for all sites.
HCR Manor Care	Federal NH	$22,464.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits for all sites.
Forestville Healthcare	Federal NH	$2,789.01	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits.
OPSEC Consulting LLC	Federal NH	$18,000.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits for all sites.
Citizen Care	Federal NH	$2,961.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits.

Table 4: SFY 21 Health Care Quality Account Grant Awards
COVID-19 Visitation Aids

Grantee	Funding Source	Amount Awarded	Purpose and Scope
Citizens Care & Rehabilitation Center of Frederick	Federal NH	$1,005.04	To provide in-person visitation aids to recognize best safety practices during each phase of re-opening.
Genesis Healthcare Inc.	Federal NH	$67,800.00	To provide in-person visitation aids to recognize best safety practices during each phase of re-opening.
Genesis Healthcare Inc. (Doctor's Community)	Federal NH	$2,825.00	To provide in-person visitation aids to recognize best safety practices during each phase of re-opening.
Glen Burnie Health and Rehab Center	Federal NH	$3,000.00	To provide in-person visitation aids to recognize best safety practices during each phase of re-opening.
FutureCare	Federal NH	$42 420.00	To provide in-person visitation aids to recognize best safety practices during each phase of re-opening.
Randallstown Nursing and Rehab	Federal NH	$3,000.00	To provide in-person visitation aids to recognize best safety practices during each phase of re-opening.
Marquis Health Services	Federal NH	$8,877.88	To provide in-person visitation aids to recognize best safety practices during each phase of re-opening.
Lorien Health Services	Federal NH	$12,630.00	To provide in-person visitation aids to recognize best safety practices during each phase of re-opening.

National Resources

CMS provides oversight to all states to ensure compliance with the federal laws associated with the collection and use of federal CMP funds. To remain current with the national guidance, OHCQ personnel participate in regular meetings with the CMS Civil Money Penalty Reinvestment Program (CMPRP).

OHCQ personnel also participate in quarterly meetings with the National CMP Network to discuss trends, success stories, and challenges associated with the oversight of each state's reinvestment of CMP funds. Most importantly, ideas are shared in order to solicit grant applications that will continue to improve care in nursing homes across the nation.