



CMS Announces New Affinity Group Medicaid and School-Based Health Services Delivery

Partnerships with schools provide unique access opportunities for states to deliver health services to students and their families. This summer, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will offer a new affinity group for state Medicaid agencies interested in partnering with schools and public health to improve access to and the delivery of important preventive health services for children and adolescents.

Guided by the Medicaid and CHIP Child Core Set, the affinity group will explore ways that state Medicaid and CHIP agencies can leverage schools to improve health outcomes. For example, according to the 2013-14 School-Based Health Alliance Digital Census Report, 83% of school-based health services provided individual chronic disease management. Yet, fiscal year 2015 Medicaid Core Set data showed that only 24% of children ages 5-20 remained on asthma controller medication for at least 75% of their treatment period. Thus, supporting asthma control efforts in school settings may have significant potential to improve the core measure and lead to a significant reduction in acute respiratory distress issues caused by asthma.

The Medicaid and School-Based Health Services Delivery Affinity Group will provide:

- **Expert moderated webinars and learning circles on state-determined issues** will be provided, such as:
 - **Core measure improvement** (oral health, immunizations, well-visits, and Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment)
 - **Care coordination between school health personnel and primary care providers** (behavioral health integration, effective use of screening and risk tools, referrals)
 - **Access** (consent, youth engagement strategies, effective local delivery reforms)
 - **Data sharing and health information technology issues**
 - **Financing and sustainability** (state authorities, Title V, billing issues)

CMS aims to tailor the group to the participating states' specific goals. Early interviews with state Medicaid agencies will help determine the focus areas and structure of the 12-month affinity group.

- **One-on-one consultation and small group opportunities** will be offered to support state-identified needs, such as how to strengthen quality improvement data and measurement capacity on specific child and adolescent health preventive measures.
- **Opportunities to interact with peers** to share experiences and lessons learned will be available. States will share successes and challenges of their current and past efforts to partner with schools to improve health outcomes, including a review of the successful Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) Quality Grant outcomes of Colorado and New Mexico's school-based health work.

Join Us:

If your Medicaid agency is interested in joining the **Medicaid and School-Based Health Services Delivery Affinity Group**, please send an email expressing your interest to MedicaidCHIPPrevention@cms.hhs.gov by **August 23, 2017**, and attach your completed Expression of Interest (EOI) form. We will then hold a call with you and your team to discuss your current activities, goals for these initiatives and how we may help you. Please let us know how this affinity group can support the work your state is already doing or would like to do in these critical preventive health areas. **Six to eight states will be chosen to participate** in the affinity group.