



SIM Round Two, Webinar 1: “Announcement” Transcript

Good afternoon, and thank you for joining us on this exciting day. As you know, the Funding Opportunity Announcement for Round Two of the State Innovation Model initiative was published on Grants.gov earlier today. In this presentation, we will provide a high level overview of the funding opportunity and articulate the goals of the initiative. The second round of this initiative updates the initiative in ways in which CMS believes correlate with successful state-wide transformation. These updates, based on lessons learned from the first round, will be highlighted for you today.

During this introductory webinar, we will briefly cover the purpose of the Innovation Center and the vision for Round Two of the State Innovation Model initiative. We will then outline the proposal requirements, describe the award’s eligibility requirements, and review the application, submission and review processes. Lastly, we will review the award timeline and next steps.

The purpose of the Innovation Center is to test innovative payment and service delivery models to reduce program expenditures while preserving or enhancing the quality of care furnished to individuals.

SIM tests the ability of state governments to achieve health transformation through use of available regulatory and policy levers. The Initiative is based on the premise that state innovation can result in better care and lower costs by implementing multi-payer models in collaboration with both the private and public sectors.

SIM awards are cooperative agreements, meaning CMS is substantially involved in the development, design, implementation and evaluation of State Health Care Transformation plans. The Innovation Center will provide comprehensive technical assistance to awardees to help states’ operationalize their Model Test.

It is our hope that SIM dollars will support efforts that will accelerate the transition of our health care system into one that is value-driven, affordable, accessible, seamless, coordinated, and of high quality.

The Innovation Center will award up to 12 Model Test states between twenty and one-hundred million dollars, depending on the size of the state and the scope of the model. Model Test awards will provide financial and technical support for states and state-based entities that are ready to

implement fully developed proposals for successful state-wide health care transformation. States currently engaged in a Round 1 Model test award are not eligible to apply for funding in Round 2. The Innovation Center will award up to fifteen Model Design states between one and three million dollars. Round One Model Design states that met the terms and conditions of the Round 1 project, but require more time to develop their plan, may apply for Round 2 Model Design awards. States that did not participate in Round 1 are also eligible to apply. As a condition of the awards, the state must commit to sustain its model after the design and/or test period.

CMS invites the Governor's Offices of the fifty states and U.S. territories, as well as the Mayor's Office of the District of Columbia, to apply. The FOA outlines exclusions, summarized here. States that applied and were not selected for funding under the first round of Model Test awards may apply for this round.

Outside organizations focused on quality and state delivery system transformation may apply, such as a public private partnership supported by the Governor's Office, or a non-profit affiliated with the State Department of Health. The Governor must support non-state applicants by submitting a request in writing to CMS along with the letter of intent to apply. The Governor's request must include a justification for the request and attestation that the state will actively participate in all activities described in its proposal. For more detail, please refer to the Q&A document posted on the CMS Innovation Center website.

All applicants, regardless of type of applicant or award sought, must submit all standard forms, including a Governor's Letter of Endorsement, a project abstract and narrative, a budget narrative, and a financial analysis and operational plan. The FOA provides additional detail regarding the required elements of each section of the proposal (which differ for Design and Test awards), page limits, and other important requirements.

A future webinar will describe, in detail, how to download relevant application materials and submit an application successfully through Grants.gov. Details regarding date and time of this and all future informational webinars will be posted on our website.

There will be separate review processes for Model Test and Model Design applications. Model Test applications will be reviewed by an expert review panel. The FOA details the criteria by which applications will be reviewed. Based on scores from the expert panel review, selected Model Test applicants will be requested to present in-person or virtually to an HHS leadership panel, consisting of individuals with knowledge and expertise in innovative health care payment and service delivery models. A Model Test applicant's presentation must be led by a cabinet level health official and include providers and commercial payers who have committed to participate in the model.

Model Design applications will be reviewed and scored based on the quality of the proposal. Presentations are not required for the Model Design applicants.

If a Model Test applicant is not selected for a Model Test award, CMS may select the state or entity for a Model Design award if (1) after all possible states and/or entities which applied for Model Design awards are selected and funding is still available to issue additional Model Design awards (not to exceed overall maximum of 15 Model Design awards); and (2) CMS determines the state/entity is not ready for a Model Test award and would benefit from Model Design funding.

Letters of intent to apply are due by June 6, 2014. Model Test applications are due by July 21, 2014. In-person or virtual presentations to HHS leadership will tentatively occur in August 2014. The anticipated award date is Fall 2014, and the anticipated period of performance is January 1, 2015, to December 31, 2018.

For Model Design applicants, letters of intent to apply are also due on June 6, 2014. Applications are due on July 21, 2014, and the anticipated award date is Fall 2014. The anticipated period of performance is January 1, 2015, to December 31, 2015.

Please check our website: innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/state-innovations for details regarding additional upcoming webinars and other information. You may submit questions to our inbox: StateInnovations@cms.hhs.gov. Frequently asked questions will be posted continually to the website. Thank you for joining us today. We look forward to working with you in the future to accelerate health system transformation.