

## PROVIDER BULLETIN

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# STRONG START FOR MOTHERS AND NEWBORNS

## CONTENTS

- **GRANT DESCRIPTION**
- **GRANT SUMMARY**
- **GRANT REQUIREMENTS**
- **RESOURCES**

### **GRANT DESCRIPTION**

The MO HealthNet Division (MHD) of the Missouri Department of Social Services will offer data and technical support to qualified agencies or organizations that are interested in applying for a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) "Strong Start" Grant to evaluate care and payment models that have the potential to improve perinatal outcomes for MO HealthNet participants who are at high risk for adverse pregnancy outcomes. Per the grant's requirements, the State will provide a letter of support for interested and qualified agencies/organizations wishing to pursue this grant opportunity, subject to the conditions listed below.

The full grant Announcement can be found at:

<http://innovation.cms.gov/Files/x/Strong-Start-for-Mothers-and-Newborns-Funding-Opportunity-Announcement.pdf>

The link for the Letter of Intent, due to CMS by March 21, 2012, can be found at:

<http://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/Strong-Start/Strong-Start-for-Mothers-and-Newborns-Letter-Of-Intent-page.html>

Other information, including links to recent webinars and an FAQ document, can be found on the main Strong Start webpage: <http://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/strong-start/>

### **GRANT SUMMARY**

Interested applicants are responsible for reading the full CMS announcement, but a quick summary is provided below:

- The grant is designed to test new care and payment models that have the potential to improve perinatal outcomes for MO HealthNet participants who are at high risk for adverse pregnancy outcomes.
- The three models to be tested are:
  - Enhanced Prenatal care through centering/group visits
  - Enhanced prenatal care at birth centers
  - Enhanced prenatal care at maternity care homes
- Applicants can propose to implement more than one of the above models, but only one model may be implemented at any individual practice.
- This is a three-year grant, plus a fourth year for data analysis.
- Successful applicants must be able to enroll at least 500 women per year over the three years of the grant, for a total of at least 1,500 participants. Partnering with other providers in order to meet this threshold is acceptable.
- CMS proposes to award up to \$43.2 million nationally to fund the enrollment and care of 90,000 women (or an average of \$480 per enrollee). The total number of grants awarded depends upon the number of women that can be served at the sites that apply.

### **GRANT REQUIREMENTS**

In addition to meeting the eligibility requirements specified in the CMS announcement, Missouri applicants must also meet the following requirements:

- Be willing to enter into a contract with Wipro, the MHD fiscal intermediary, to obtain data and associated services required by the grant
- Be willing to enter into a contract with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services to obtain data and associated services required by the grant
- Be willing to provide certain data elements necessary for the grant to MHD in the specified format
- Be willing and able to obtain the data elements listed in Appendices A and C of the Announcement, as these elements are generally not available through the MO HealthNet and DHSS datasets.

A letter of intent is REQUIRED, and is due to CMS by March 21, 2012. This can be submitted online, through the link above. Please send a copy of the Letter of Intent to MHD ([ask.mhd@dss.mo.gov](mailto:ask.mhd@dss.mo.gov)) so that we can coordinate with anyone submitting a letter of intent regarding the grant. MHD will convene a webinar in early April for organizations that submit a Letter of Intent and intend to complete the full application.

The full application is due to CMS by June 13, 2012.

### **RESOURCES**

Questions on the grant can be directed to [StrongStart@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:StrongStart@cms.hhs.gov) (for programmatic questions) and [Michelle.Feagins@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Michelle.Feagins@cms.hhs.gov) (for administrative questions).

Questions regarding the MO HealthNet's role in support of this grant may be directed to [ask.mhd@dss.mo.gov](mailto:ask.mhd@dss.mo.gov).

Questions regarding the Department of Health and Senior Services' role in support of this grant may be directed to Melinda Sanders at [melinda.sanders@health.mo.gov](mailto:melinda.sanders@health.mo.gov).

The notice to plaintiff class members of the proposed settlement of the Comas v. Schaefer lawsuit concerning the delivery of mental health services to deaf persons, approved by the United States District Court for the Western District of Missouri Central Division, can be found at <http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/>.

**Provider Bulletins** are available on the MO HealthNet Division (MHD) (Formerly the Division of Medical Services) Web site at <http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/providers/pages/bulletins.htm>. Bulletins will remain on the Provider Bulletins page only until incorporated into the [provider manuals](#) as appropriate, then moved to the Archived Bulletin page.

**MO HealthNet News:** Providers and other interested parties are urged to go to the MHD Web site at <http://dss.mo.gov/mhd/global/pages/mednewssubscribe.htm> to subscribe to the electronic mailing list to receive automatic notifications of provider bulletins, provider manual updates, and other official MO HealthNet communications via E-mail.

**MO HealthNet Managed Care:** The information contained in this bulletin applies to coverage for:

- MO HealthNet Fee-for-Service
- Services not included in MO HealthNet Managed Care

Questions regarding MO HealthNet Managed Care benefits should be directed to the patient's MO HealthNet Managed Care health plan. Before delivering a service, please check the patient's eligibility status by swiping the red MO HealthNet card or by calling the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System at 573-635-8908 and using Option One for the red or white card.

**Provider Communications Hotline  
573-751-2896**