



Iowa Department of Human Services

Terry E. Branstad
Governor

Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor

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Director

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1229

DATE: March 25, 2013

TO: Iowa Medicaid Nursing Facility, Skilled Nursing Facility, and Nursing Facility for Persons with Mental Illness (NF/MI) Providers

ISSUED BY: Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

RE: 2013 Civil Money Penalty Quality Improvement Initiative Grant (CMPQII)

The purpose of this Informational Letter is to announce the availability of the Civil Money Penalty Quality Improvement Initiative Grants for 2013.

Section 1919 of the Social Security Act and Iowa Code section 249A.19 allows the department to impose civil money penalties when a health care facility is not in substantial compliance with one or more participation requirements. These penalties may range from \$50 to \$10,000 per day, depending on the kind of deficiency recorded by the Department of Inspections and Appeals.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) permits states to direct collected civil penalty funds for quality improvement projects that enhance the quality of care and the quality of life for nursing facility residents.

The State of Iowa will be awarding grants and grant applications are available to various interested stakeholders such as nursing facilities, consumer groups, professional associations, ombudsmen, and quality improvement organizations.

Submission of Grant Proposals

Grants are available only for quality improvement initiatives that are outside the scope of normal operations for the nursing facility or other applicant. Grants cannot be used as replacement funding for goods or services that the applicant already offers.

The applicant must be able to identify:

- a) Areas in need of improvement, including staff education or training needs not available through current corporate or facility contract employment; and
- b) Efficient uses of the quality improvement initiative grant to improve the quality of life or quality of care of nursing facility residents.

The IME strongly encourages potential applicants to consider initiatives that have direct measurable outcomes for nursing facility residents, such as projects to reduce re-hospitalizations, to reduce the use of off-label anti-psychotic medications, or to prevent falls.

See the Grant Proposal Guidelines for the complete requirements. Interested, qualified parties wishing to apply may access Form 470-4869, *CMPQII Grant Application and Guidelines*, on the IME website at: <http://www.ime.state.ia.us/Providers/Forms.html>.

For consideration of a grant award, proposals must be received at the following address by 4:30 p.m. CST on April 30, 2013. Grant proposals received after the deadline shall not be considered. Applications should be mailed or delivered to:

Don Gookin, Nursing Facility Program Manager, Issuing Officer
DHS, IME
Bureau of Long Term Care
100 Army Post Road
Des Moines, IA 50315

Grant Awards

Grants will be awarded beginning July 1, 2013. A grant award review committee, appointed by the State Medicaid Director, shall review and evaluate all complete grant proposals received by the deadline for submission. The final decision to award a grant is at the discretion of the State Medicaid Director.

Grants, for approved applications, shall be awarded through a contract entered into by the department and the applicant. Grant funds shall be distributed pursuant to contractual obligations. **All grant awards are subject to final approval by CMS.**

Written Questions

Applicants may submit written questions regarding this announcement. Any ambiguity regarding this announcement shall be addressed through the question and answer process. Questions must be emailed to the Issuing Officer. Please submit written questions to dgookin@dhs.state.ia.us.