

Health Care Reform – Key Maryland Programs

Here you will find the key programs and projects created as a result of the federal health reform law (Patient Protection and Affordability Act) passed in March 2010 that require the attention of your affiliate public policy leadership. These projects are being administered by state governments and may provide opportunities for dietitians.

As an affiliate public policy leader, please identify one or two members with expertise and involvement in each of the areas of practice addressed in these projects. Those key members can provide you with background information and resources in these areas and will feel connected to the affiliate. Use the expertise of your affiliate membership as your first resource to make connections in the state government and become involved in these projects. Find members of DPGs in your state to partner on specific projects that require practice expertise.

Please keep in mind that in most programs, regulations have not yet been finalized from, the Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The timeline for specific project opportunities will be provided by CMS.

For specific steps on suggested action, please reference the step-by-step guide (attached).

Supportive Research and Evidence

Supporting documentation, evidence and research that demonstrates the value of dietetic services for the population in your state will help assure registered dietitians are included in these. Credible sources for research and data at the state level can be found in your *Public Policy Guidebook*. Also refer to ADA's evidence analysis library at www.evidencelibrary.com.

Maryland Opportunities

1. School-Based Health Clinics

Project Summary

The health reform law, P.L. 111 Sec. 4101, has established grants administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to help states launch school-based health clinics. Basic services include health assessments, diagnosis, treatment and referrals for minor, acute, and chronic medical conditions and mental health services.

Eligible entities are school-based health centers or a sponsoring facility of a school-based health center. Preferences will be given to school-based health centers that serve a large population of children eligible for medical assistance (Medicaid or the State Children's Health Insurance Plan), known as SCHIP.

Health Care Reform – Key Maryland Programs

State Contact

Maryland School District Superintendent Listing

http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/schoolsystems/System_Superintendents.htm

Click here to find a listing of all school district superintendents in your state. Then, click on the name of the school district to find contact information.

Participate

Ask your affiliate district leaders to consider contacting the State Department of Education to find out which schools in their region may be participating in this grant program. The district leaders may also try contacting some of the school districts directly. If so, ask for dietitians to be included as one of the providers of health services. It will need to be written in the grant application. If necessary, provide the school district with research and data evidence of the value of dietitian involvement in children's health. The ADA staff can assist each affiliate by introducing School Nutrition DPG members in your state who can be a valuable resource.

2. Patient-Centered Medical Homes – Medicaid Waivers

Project Summary

Public Law 111-148 Sec. 2703 goes into effect until January 2011, however, grant applications are not yet being accepted. This program allows for medical home waivers for state-coordinated programs that focus on diabetes treatment and prevention, treat cardiovascular disease and treat those considered overweight. Nutritionists will be listed among the team of health care professionals (Sec. 2703.H6) who can provide these services, once the federal regulations are written.

Maryland State Medicaid Office

<http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/mma/mmahome.html>

Contact your affiliate members who work for the Maryland Department of Health and Social Services to ask who would be the right person or division within the department to contact about Medicaid waiver applications.

Ask the Department if they are applying for a waiver for medical homes diabetes treatment and prevention. If so, discuss the importance of including RDs as one of the professionals who can provide these services. It will need to be written in the waiver application for your state. Provide supporting documentation on the value of RD services.

Health Care Reform – Key Maryland Programs

Deadline/Dates

The U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services will announce program guidelines and the waiver application deadline. Go to www.grants.gov for details. This program goes into effect on January 1, 2011.

3. Healthy Aging, Living Well CDC Grant Program

Project Summary

P.L. 111-148 Sec. 4202 establishes a five-year public health and community based grant program. This project will be administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to incentivize healthy lifestyles in individuals who are between 55-64 years of age. Interventions include weight reduction, cholesterol reduction, preventing the onset of diabetes and diabetes self-management through screenings (nutrition included) and clinical referrals.

Eligible entities to apply for this grant are:

- State health departments
- Local health departments
- Federally recognized Indian tribes

Maryland Department of Public Health

Contact your affiliate members who work for the Maryland Department of Public Health to ask who would be the right person or division within the Department to contact about grant applications.

- Ask this person to include registered dietitians as providers of these services. This will need to be written in the grant application. Provide evidence and research of the benefits of dietetic services for individuals between 55-64.
- The Maryland Department of Health Web site is <http://www.dhmh.state.md.us/>

County Government

- District leaders can contact their county health department to learn if they are applying for a grant. Perhaps the district leaders can recruit more grassroots participation to work together on gathering this information by county health department(s).
- Ask the county to include dietitians as providers of these services. It will need to be written in the grant application. Provide evidence and research of the benefits of dietetic services for individuals between 55-64.
- Find county department of health contact information at:
<http://www.msa.md.gov/msa/mdmanual/01glance/html/county.html>

Health Care Reform – Key Maryland Programs

Federally Recognized Indian Tribes

- Contact Indian Health Services to determine which tribes are represented in your state.
- Contact affiliate members who work closely with Indian tribes in your state.
- Ask the Indian tribe(s) to include dietitians as providers of these services. It will need to be written in the grant application. Provide evidence and research of the benefits of dietetic services for individuals between the ages of 55-64.

Deadlines/Dates

The grant guidelines will be published by the federal government. Watch for announcements and information here: www.grants.gov

4. State Insurance Exchange

Program Summary

By Jan. 1, 2014, each state is required to create an insurance exchange that allows one-stop-shopping for health insurance coverage by all the insurance providers in each state. This includes Medicaid and CHIP programs, as well as private insurance plans. Initially, the exchanges will be available for individuals and small businesses. In 2017, the exchanges will be open to employers with 100+ employees.

Participate

Dietitians should build relationships with the private insurance companies in Maryland, in addition to the Medicaid and CHIP program leaders to seek reimbursement for dietetic services. Dietitians should ask for reimbursement for nutrition services in the insurance packages that are provided in the state exchange. Contact your State Reimbursement Representative or your State Policy Representative to get more involved with seeking reimbursement with private insurance companies.

Maryland Health Insurance Companies

Click here to find contact information for the health insurance companies in Maryland:
<http://www.mdinsurance.state.md.us/sa/jsp/availPubInfo/Queries.jsp>

Work with your affiliate members to contact each health insurance company in Maryland to ask for information on the packages/plans they are creating for the state health insurance exchange. Ask for nutrition services to be reimbursed in these plans. Provide supporting evidence of the value of dietetic services for your state's population.

Health Care Reform – Key Maryland Programs

5. Small Business Employee Wellness Grant Programs

Program Summary

P.L. 111-148 Sec. 10408 establishes a five-year grant program for employers of 99 employees or less (who work 25 hours or greater per work-week) to participate in comprehensive wellness programs that are based on evidence-based research and best practices, including research and practices as provided in the Guide to Community Preventive Services, the Guide to Clinical Preventive Services, and the National Registry for Effective Programs.

A comprehensive workplace wellness program shall be made available by an eligible employer to all employees and include:

- Health awareness initiatives, including health education, preventive screenings, and health risk assessments.
- Efforts to maximize employee participation.
- Initiatives to change unhealthy behaviors and lifestyle choices, including counseling, seminars, online programs, and self-help materials.
- Supportive environment efforts, including workplace policies to encourage healthy lifestyles, healthy eating, increased physical activity, and improved mental health.

Contact your Maryland Department of Public Health

- Contact your affiliate members who work for the Maryland Department of Public Health to ask who would be the right person or division within the Department to contact about grant applications.
- The Maryland Department of Public Health Web site is: <http://www.dhmh.state.md.us/>

Participate

Ask the Maryland Department of Public Health if they are applying for this grant. If so, ask that dietitians be included as one of the providers of these services to small businesses. Provide supporting documentation and evidence of the benefits of dietetic services, including counseling, healthy eating and health awareness.

Deadlines/Dates

The grant guidelines will be published by the federal government. Watch for announcements and information here: www.grants.gov

Health Care Reform – Key Maryland Programs

Contact Information:

For additional guidance on how to take advantage of HCR opportunities in your state, or with questions on anything you see here, please contact:

For general questions:

Juliana Smith, Director, State Government Relations, at jsmith@eatright.org ;

For questions and further information specific to insurance and reimbursement issues:

Pam Michael, Director, Nutrition Services Coverage (pmichael@eatright.org)

Tori Bender, Manager, Advocacy and Communications (tbender@eatright.org)

For questions on state specific information, contact your affiliate leaders

State Regulatory Specialist (SRS):

<http://www.eatright.org/Members/leadership.aspx?&C=01078950>

State Policy Representative (SPR):

<http://www.eatright.org/Members/leadership.aspx?&C=01010530>

State Reimbursement Representative:

<http://www.eatright.org/Members/leadership.aspx?&C=80003108>