

CO-CHAMP

Colorado Comprehensive Health Access Modernization Program

HRSA State Health Access Program Grant

April 1, 2010

Overview

5 year grant awarded in September 2009. Colorado has requested \$42.9 million over the five-year period, but states must reapply for funding every year. Subsequent years of funding are contingent upon meeting performance measures and the availability of federal funding.

Program Status:

- **Staff Expansion (grant funded)**

- 11 employees hired
- 2 contractors hired
- 6 positions on-hold
- 9 positions in progress

- **Colorado Health Care Affordability Act (HB 09-1293)**

Several CO-CHAMP projects are linked to the implementation of the Health Care Affordability Act, which expands coverage to more than 100,000 uninsured Coloradans over the next five years. HRSA SHAP grant funding will support the following HB 09-1293-related activities and include:

1. Maximizing Outreach, Retention and Enrollment (MORE):

The Department will conduct effective outreach and marketing campaigns to inform the expansion populations of the availability of public health insurance programs and assist newly eligible expansion populations with the application process and how to access health care services in appropriate settings. Activities in year one include an outreach needs assessment and the distribution of grants to local community-based organizations for targeted outreach.

- 7 Regional Outreach Conferences completed
 - Durango, Alamosa, Grand Junction, Lamar, Denver, Greeley and Colorado Springs
- Purchase Orders for Needs Assessment in Procurement
- Grant Request for Proposals and Grant Template Contract in Procurement
- PEAK Tool-kit PO SOW drafted

2. Eligibility Modernization: Streamlining the Application Process:

With the additional 100,000 Coloradans potentially applying for health care coverage, the Department has identified new strategies to make the eligibility and enrollment process more efficient and cost-effective. Under this project, the Department plans to create interfaces with other state and federal databases to electronically verify required client documentation. An online application for the expansion populations will be implemented to eliminate the need for applicants to submit paper application. Year one projects include creating interfaces with the Vital Statistics and the Income and Eligibility Verification System (IEVS).

- Work has begun for following interfaces:
 - DMV - Identity Verification
 - School Lunch – Express Lane Eligibility
 - DPHE – Citizenship Verification
 - SSA – Citizenship Verification
 - IEVS – Income Verification
 - Revenue – Tax Records
- Executive Order Issued for DPHE and Revenue to support our initiatives.

3. **Benefit and Program Design: Adults without Dependent Children (AwDC) & Buy In for Individuals with Disabilities (Buy-In) Programs:**

The Department will develop potential program designs, including models for premium structures, and cost-sharing provisions for the adults without dependents and the buy-in for individuals with disabilities expansion populations. The Department will hire contractors to conduct an actuarial study and fiscal analysis in the development of possible program models.

- Stakeholder forums for Buy-In and AwDC programs were held February - March. Locations: Durango, Alamosa, and Denver, Grand Junction, Lamar, Greeley, and Colorado Springs.
- Benefit and program design began with hiring *Mathematica* to analyze client population and benefit design features for the development of the AwDC program.
- Converting *Provider Recruiter* contract monies into FTE and will be hiring within the next month.

• **Premium Assistance:**

Through federal authority, public health insurance programs for children can help eligible persons pay the premiums required to enroll in their private health insurance plans. The Department will expand its pilot premium assistance program, CHP+ at Work, statewide. The current program design allows for a direct subsidy (not to exceed \$100 per eligible child per month) to families who enroll their CHP+ child in the parents' employer-sponsored health insurance plan

- Estimates for system changes exceeded HRSA funding considerably. Program area worked with Deloitte and OIT to reduce functionality and cut costs for CBMS system change. Program area identified cost of changes to the MMIS system; higher than expected, but tolerable.
- Program area is working with CMS to move the premium assistance program out of the CHP+ HIFA Waiver and into the State Plan; and to identify the Premium Assistance program as the 5th of 8 CHIPRA Enrollment and Retention Provisions, which would position us to receive an additional \$8M in Federal funding.
- Program area is moving forward with filling an FTE as contract manager for the Premium Assistance program, and a key primary focus for this position will be the expansion of the program to multiple employers.

• **Three-Share Community Projects:**

A three-share health coverage plan is a basic plan that brings together employers, workers without coverage and outside funding to create a coverage plan for those workers who have no other access to health insurance. HRSA SHAP grant funds will support two three-share community projects.

1. **Health Access Pueblo (HAP):**

HAP is a community-based non-profit organization created to provide high quality, affordable, basic health coverage for the uninsured who work for employers based in Pueblo County. To finance the program, enrolled employers contribute one-third of the premiums, employees contribute another third, and the final third of premium costs is shared by the community. Funds will be used to increase participation in HAP through a robust marketing and advertising plan.

- April Goal: Have contract signed and executed

2. **San Luis Valley 3 Share:**

The goal of the San Luis Valley Health Access Program is to provide a health coverage program aimed at the working uninsured in employer groups where the median hourly wage is \$15 per hour or less and the employer group currently provides no health insurance. Grant funding will be used to initially fund the community share in this pilot program.

- Scope of work is drafted
- Pending establishment of 501(c)(3) legal entity

• **Evidence Based Benefit Design:**

Many states are working to develop new, less expensive, portable benefit packages for small employers and part-time and seasonal workers. With HRSA SHAP funding, the Department and its partners will work with providers, insurers, and consumers to develop an evidence-based tool that can be used to design health benefit packages in private and public insurance products. These products will be offered to a targeted population of uninsured Coloradans through a regional pilot program and could eventually be offered statewide.

- April Goal: Have contract signed and executed