



**COLORADO**

Department of Health Care  
Policy & Financing

## Hospital Outstationing Grant Program FAQs

*October 2016*

The Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (the Department) administers the Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program) and Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) programs as well as a variety of other health care programs for Colorado's low-income families, the elderly and persons with disabilities. The Department has established the Hospital Outstationing Grant Program which provides funds to eligible hospitals to offset the costs of offering outstationing activities to individuals and families seeking financial assistance for health care services (Medical Assistance Applicants).

Outstationing activities consist of onsite services that inform, educate, and assist in the application and enrollment in public medical assistance programs, specifically Health First Colorado and CHP+. Outstationing activities are designed to benefit Medical Assistance Applicants, resulting in increased access to public medical assistance and a reduction to the number of uninsured served by hospitals. Through Colorado HB 09-1293, the Colorado Health Care Affordability Act, funding has been made available to support outstationing activities provided by eligible hospitals.

### **Can all hospitals apply for this program?**

To be eligible for payment under the Hospital Outstationing Grant program, a hospital must meet the following three criteria:

1. A general hospital within the state of Colorado that operates inpatient facilities;
2. Licensed or certified by the Department of Public Health and Environment pursuant to 25-1.5-103 C.R.S.; and
3. A fee-paying hospital under HB 09-1293, the Colorado Health Care Affordability Act.

### **For hospitals that are part of a healthcare system, can each of the hospitals receive funding, or is the funding per healthcare system?**

Each hospital that applies and meets the eligibility criteria of the Hospital Outstationing Grant Program can receive funding. Payments are calculated and paid on a hospital by hospital basis, not by healthcare system. The manner in which the healthcare system ultimately handles the revenue into the system from the program is up to the healthcare system.

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## **How are the Hospital Outstationing payments determined?**

Payments made under the program are based on hospital specific data. The number of licensed beds and the Health First Colorado percent of total days are the two main variables used in determining payments. These variables are used in comparison to all eligible hospitals, and together account for the size and Health First Colorado utilization of the hospital. The final determinant of payment is the level of outstationing the hospital decides to achieve.

## **Are partnerships possible under the Hospital Outstationing Grant Program?**

Yes. A variety of different partnerships could be possible under the program. These could include eligible hospitals partnering with Medical Assistance (MA) sites, Presumptive Eligibility (PE) sites, Certified Application Assistance Sites (CAAS), and local county departments of social/human services.

## **How will the Department determine how the payments should be split in partnership arrangements?**

The Department will not be involved in partnership arrangements. It is up to the participating entities to decide how they would like to structure the partnership and share resources. The Department will only assist in helping the participating entities explore what options are available.

## **Under the current structure of the Hospital Outstationing Grant Program, what are the incentives for hospitals to partner with Medical Assistance sites, Presumptive Eligibility sites, Certified Application Assistance Sites, and local county departments of social/human services?**

There are several incentives for hospitals to form partnerships. As a hospital, partnering may enable the reassignment of employees dedicated to outstationing efforts to other areas in need of resources. The MA sites, Presumptive Eligibility sites, Certified Application Assistance Sites, and local county departments of social/human services would then share personnel resources with the hospital to continue, or even increase, the level of outstationing effort. This type of partnership would maintain or increase the level of outstationing and corresponding funding to the hospital and enable the hospital to redistribute existing resources to other needed areas.



## For more information contact

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