

2009 Questions and Answers

Note: As new questions are submitted, the questions and answers are added to the beginning of this document. Scroll down to see all questions asked and answered.

Question: Are awards limited to Washington State practices participating in the Washington Patient-Centered Medical Home Collaborative?

Answer: Yes. This second funding round has been designated for participants in the Washington Patient-Centered Medical Home Collaborative.

Question: Can I apply for this grant if I've already applied for the first 2009 WHIC grant sponsored by First Choice Health?

Answer: Washington Patient-Centered Medical Home Collaborative participants who may have already applied for a grant during the first funding round may also apply for this second round. If an applicant's grant proposal is successful in both grant rounds they will only receive award money from one of the grant funding opportunities. WHIC members are collaborating in the application review, scoring, and award processes for both grant rounds to ensure evaluation consistency and equity of grant funding distribution.

Question: My practice received one of these WHIC grants last year. Can we apply to receive another one this year?

Answer: Yes. While preference may be given to new applicants, previous grant recipients are not excluded from applying in 2009.

Question: Does a clinic have to be structured as a non-profit to qualify for the grants offered?

Answer: Clinics do not have to be a non-profit in order to be eligible for the grants that are available to medical practices. The application for such grants is available online at: http://www.wahealthinfocollaborative.org/documents/2009Application_WAHealthInfoCollaborative_Medical Home Participants_Aug09.pdf

Question: We are looking at requesting funds for the implementation of additional modules for our IT currently in operation. With the purchase of this module we are required to send individuals to training, as well as to bring individuals from our supplier to our hospital for the initial implementation. Are travel funds for these two items an allowable expense?

Answer: Yes, use of funds for travel to a training session is an allowable expense.

Question: Are the IT grants solely for clinics and hospitals who have not already implemented electronic health records? We have implemented one, but it needs expansion, such as adding a recall system for health maintenance and disease management.

Answer: The grants may be used for initial acquisition of health information technology or enhancements to existing electronic health or medical record systems.

Question: Should the grant be typed into the online application or submitted as a Word document?

Answer: The grant application should be typed it into the application form provided online at: http://www.wahealthinfocollaborative.org/documents/2009Application_WAHealthInfoCollaborative_Medical Home Participants_Aug09.pdf

Complete the form, rename it, and save it in your own files. It may be submitted by email or regular mail – please see the directions on the application for more detail.

Question: What do you mean by network infrastructure? Would firewalls and items to enable wireless access be considered part of the network infrastructure?

Answer: Firewalls and wireless access items are certainly part of the infrastructure, as are servers, wiring to accommodate high-speed connections (if necessary), etc.

Question: The costs of acquiring and installing or updating an Electronic Medical Record are far greater than \$7,000. Should I request that the grant amount be large enough to cover the entire cost of our project?

Answer: The amount for this round of WHIC funding is limited to \$7,000 per applicant. Your submitted budget should reflect all expected costs associated with the project, identify how the WHIC grant funds (up to \$7,000 maximum) would be used, and explain how the remainder of the expected costs will be covered.

Question: On Page 1 of the application, Question 2 under Patients refers to “active panel.” How is that defined?

Answer: An “active panel” is the number of people whom the practice or hospital considers their current patients, with the percentage of patients by primary payer (i.e. commercial carrier, Medicaid, Medicare, IHS, Tricare, self-pay, etc.). Hospitals may use the number of patients served in the last year.

If you have a question not answered above, please email it to awardsqna@hca.wa.gov