DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE FINANCE

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABIITY

ARPA HCBS Digital Health Technical Assistance

The District of Columbia Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) announces a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for a grant opportunity with funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 to provide technical assistance to home and community-based services (HCBS) providers -- inclusive of behavioral health (BH), long term care (LTC), and disability services (DDS). The ARPA HCBS Digital Health Technical Assistance (TA) program has two components: (1) The HCBS Promoting Interoperability (HCBS PIP) TA will assess provider readiness to adopt certified electronic health record technology (CEHRTs) or approved case management systems, support provider implementation of Health IT systems, and connect to the DC Health Information Exchange (HIE); (2) The HCBS Telehealth TA will encourage providers meaningful use of telehealth tools/workflows. The Director of DHCF has authority to issue grants under Section 6(4) of the Department of Health Care Finance Establishment Act of 2007, effective February 27, 2008 (D.C. Law 17-109; D.C. Official Code 7-771.05(4) (2012 Repl.).

A Request for Application (RFA) will be released under a separate announcement with guidelines for submitting the application, review criteria, and DHCF terms and conditions for applying for and receiving funding. The base year performance period is the date of award to September 30, 2022. If DHCF decides to award the option years, option year 1 will be from October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023 and option year 2 will be from October 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024.

Program Description

The District's ARPA HCBS Digital Health TA will provide one (1) multi-year (FY22-24) grant of up to $4,000,000 to deliver tailored TA to HCBS providers. The grantee will assess practice readiness and provide TA to implement CEHRTs or case management systems; connect providers to the DC HIE; and support telehealth adoption.

Subject to the availability of funds, the grant shall have a base year (not to exceed $1,500,000), option year 1 (not to exceed $1,500,000), and option year 2 (not to exceed $1,000,000).

The District's ARPA HCBS Digital Health TA program has two components:
1. **HCBS Promoting Interoperability Program TA (HCBS PIP TA):** This TA effort will support the HCBS PIP managed by DHCF. The HCBS PIP rewards HCBS providers (inclusive of BH, LTC, and DDS) for meeting milestones to select, adopt, and implement CEHRTs or approved case management systems; and connect providers to the DC HIE. HCBS PIP incentive payments will be paid directly by DHCF and are *not included* in the grant award.

   The grantee will be responsible for providing tailored TA and training to HCBS providers by:
   a. Assessing provider readiness to adopt new health IT systems;

    b. Assisting providers with the selection and implementation of systems (EHR or case management systems) capable of meeting the requirements of the incentive program;
    c. Supporting meaningful use of the system, including connectivity/use with the DC HIE;
    d. Assisting providers with the documentation required by DHCF and DBH.

2. **HCBS Telehealth TA**: This TA effort leverages the District's progressive Medicaid telehealth reimbursement policy as well as telehealth investments made during the pandemic.

    The grantee will be responsible for providing tailored TA and training to HCBS providers by:
    a. Addressing the needs of two groups of stakeholders: 1) Medicaid HCBS Providers and office staff, and 2) Medicaid HCBS beneficiaries and caregivers;
    b. Encouraging the engagement, adoption, and effective use of telehealth; Telehealth TA may include, but is not limited to continuing the use of DHCF CMS-funded laptops for purposes of utilizing telehealth; implementing new/modifying existing telehealth workflows; encouraging patient education and patient portal usage required to access telehealth modules/tools; deploying interns to augment and assist existing staff, etc.

Eligibility Requirements:

Applicants must have a demonstrated record of:
1. Implementing and optimizing: EHRs, HIE, and telehealth for District Medicaid community.
2. Providing tailored TA and training to HCBS providers on CEHRTs, HIE, and telehealth tools.
3. Understanding HCBS provider workflows, challenges, and opportunities with using technologies that support integrating BH, LTC, and DDS.

All applicants must also be registered organizations in good standing with the DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA), Corporation Division, the Office of Tax and Revenue (OTR), the Department of Employment Services (DOES), and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and demonstrate Clean Hands certification at the time of application.

An RFA will be released on or around Friday November 5th, 2021. The application package will be available online at https://communityaffairs.dc.gov/content/community-grant-program and the DHCF website (https://dhcf.dc.gov/page/dhcf-grant-opportunities).

DHCF will hold a pre-proposal conference on or around November 10th, 2021 at 2:00 PM via Microsoft Teams. Prospective applicants must provide an email address to DHCF to receive notification of amendments or clarifications to the RFA.

Completed applications must be received on or before 4:00 PM on Monday December 6, 2021 by DHCF c/o Brion.Elliott@dc.gov. Applicants will receive an email receipt notification to verify that their application has been received. No applications will be accepted after the submission deadline. All eligible applications will be reviewed through a competitive process.

For additional information, contact Eduarda Koch, Health IT Project Manager, DHCF, Health Care Reform & Innovations Administration at Eduarda.Koch@dc.gov or at 202-673-3561.