



Request for Letters of Intent - Demonstration Projects Illinois Behavioral Health Integration Project (BHIP)

June 22, 2012

Purpose: The Illinois Behavioral Health Integration Project (BHIP) will award four demonstration grants up to \$45,000 each.

BHIP is developing the legal and operational framework necessary to protect patient information while helping to facilitate data exchange among behavioral health and medical services providers, ultimately to improve health outcomes. BHIP is a joint effort of the Illinois Office of Health Information Technology, the Department of Human Services and the Department of Healthcare and Family Services, with active support and participation from dozens of behavioral health and medical care organizations throughout Illinois. For more information about BHIP, go to the website:

<http://www2.illinois.gov/gov/HIE/Pages/BHIP.aspx>

Nationwide –

- Integrating behavioral health and medical services offers promising practices for improving health outcomes and reducing health disparities. This is especially true for individuals with behavioral health disorders and chronic health ailments.
- Substance abuse or mental health issues often trigger the onset of chronic ailments such as obesity, hypertension, and diabetes. According to the Service Administration of Mental Health and Substance Abuse (SAMHSA), sixty-eight percent of individuals with a mental health disorder have one or more medical conditions. Of the nearly sixty percent of adults with a medical condition, about one-third have a co-occurring mental disorder. Those with co-occurring mental health disorders experience much poorer health outcomes.
- Health Information Exchange (HIE) is the use of electronic health records to assist both medical and behavioral health providers in understanding a consumer's full health history, conducted in a manner that protects the privacy, confidentiality and security of information. HIE enables the exchange of consumer/patient information to improve healthcare quality and outcomes, reduce disparities and streamline administrative functions.

Goal: Behavioral health demonstration grantees will increase their knowledge and ability to exchange protected health information with medical providers in a patient-centered model of care. This model of care may include care coordination, integration and collaboration.

Program Requirements: Demonstration project sites will be required to: i) exchange protected health information electronically among practitioners of both behavioral health and medical services; ii) gather and report information about challenges, barriers and successful tactics in the process of exchanging and integrating of behavioral health and medical services; and iii) document the extent to which this exchange of information addresses one or more of the following healthcare implementation goals:

- Improve healthcare quality and outcomes
- Reduce health disparities

Request for Letters of Intent - Demonstration Projects

- Reduce medical errors or duplicative services
- Enhance coordination or patient care among providers
- Reduce or eliminate paper transactions
- Control the cost of healthcare.

Lessons learned from the demonstration projects will be made available to a broader population of providers and to the public.

Eligibility Requirements: Grantees must be licensed Illinois behavioral health providers (specifically mental health or substance abuse treatment centers), providing services to Illinois residents and classified as a 501(c)3. Eligible applicants must be existing formal or incorporated organizations, based in Illinois and engaged in not-for-profit, public assistance or related functions.

Request for Letters of Intent (LOI): Interested behavioral health nonprofits, specifically mental health providers or substance abuse treatment centers, are invited to submit a letter of intent, not more than five (5) pages in length. Please include the FEIN of the proposing organization and letters of support from any proposed partners. Letters of intent are due on Monday, July 16, 2012 at 3:00 pm.

Submissions must be made electronically to:

Ms. Dia Cirillo
Behavioral Health Project Director
Illinois Office of Health Information Technology
Office of the Governor
100 W. Randolph, Suite 2-201
Chicago, IL 60601
E: dia.cirillo@illinois.gov

Primary Selection Criteria for Behavioral Health Providers:

- Provider can demonstrate the integration, coordination or collaboration of services which support patient-centered care, involving at least one behavioral health provider (mental health or substance abuse intervention provider) and one medical provider (i.e., inpatient psychiatric hospital, medical group, multi-specialty practice, solo provider)
- Provider has implemented a certified EHR system or is an ILHIE Direct registered user
- Provider will register for ILHIE Direct by the time of grant submission
- Provider can either demonstrate experience in exchanging behavioral health data with a medical provider or a commitment to do so in this demonstration project
- EHR has necessary customizations to support the behavioral health provider's use of the EHR to document their patient visits/support their workflow.

Required Content: Applicants must address the following questions in the LOI.

1. What is your proposed project?
 - Which of your services will the exchange of health information support?

Request for Letters of Intent - Demonstration Projects

- Which additional services (e.g. medical services and any additional behavioral health services) will your project seek to integrate or coordinate with? (Please include a letter of support from these organizations.)
 - What is the proposed process of exchanging health information? Be sure to specify the information that will be exchanged and describe the consent process that will be used.
2. Please describe the intended recipients of these services and identify the number participating in the proposed initiative.
 3. What does your organization hope to accomplish with the exchange of health information? Please identify your anticipated accomplishments and results in terms of immediate outputs and midterm outcomes.
 4. Please provide a summary of your organization's experience (in terms of services and results) in exchanging health information through care integration, coordination or collaboration.
 5. Specify whether your organization has an electronic health records system (EHR) and/or is a registered user of ILHIE Direct.
 - How has this technology been integrated into the services that your organization currently provides?
 - Please describe the extent to which and how long your organization has maintained an E.H.R.
 - What is the vendor and is the system certified?

Next Steps: The submission of an LOI qualifies organizations to submit a full application for award, provided that all eligibility requirements are fulfilled. Grant applications will be emailed to all eligible LOI respondents no later than Friday, July 20, 2012. All grant applications will be due on Thursday, August 16, 2012 at 3pm.