

Texas to Start Children's Medicaid Health Home Pilot Projects

On April 6, 2010, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) released a request for proposal (RFP 529-10-0057) seeking contractors to provide Medicaid health home pilot project services. Proposals are due July 2, 2010. Primary care provider organizations in the pilot projects must be enrolled Medicaid providers in good standing; and have provided Medicaid services since June 2008. Proposals that include minimum of 5,000 children enrolled in Medicaid under age 21 years will be preferred. Up to eight pilots will receive funding for a period of 24 months for projects that will start August 2, 2010. Contract award announcements are expected by July 30, 2010.

HHSC will assess the pilots on four measures:

1. Ability to increase access to primary care and specialty services for children receiving Medicaid benefits
2. Improve the quality of primary care and specialty services for children enrolled in Texas Medicaid by increasing the number of enrolled children receiving recommended primary prevention services, proper management of chronic conditions and all needed specialty and social support services, including dental and behavioral health services
3. Cost effectiveness in meeting the first two measures, with the ultimate goal that the project is sustainable over time and conducive to replication statewide
4. Ability to provide care that is patient/family-centered, population-based, coordinated, clinically managed, team-based and comprehensive

In their proposals, each provider organization will describe how it will address and work toward mastering six core competencies HHSC requires in a health home. They are:

1. Patient access
2. Quality improvement
3. Patient/family-centeredness
4. Population approach to care
5. Coordinated and clinically managed care
6. Team-based comprehensive care

The health home pilots will serve the selected provider organizations' existing Medicaid patients. The provider organizations will be reimbursed through the standard Medicaid billing process for medical services. Reimbursement for the new pilot activities will be a separate billing process. Provider organizations will submit monthly or quarterly invoices to HHSC documenting their expenses related to the pilot. HHSC will consider proposals from solo and group practices; groups of practices collaborating on a proposal; and other health care entities such as hospitals, health science centers, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and Rural Health Clinics. HHSC plans to include a representative cross-section of practice sizes, practice locations, organizational arrangements and affiliations, and Medicaid patient populations served.

A link to the full text of “Request for Proposals (RFP) and Application for Provider Practices to Participate in the Health Home (Medical Home) Pilot Program RFP No. 529-10-0057” may be found in *The OPEN MINDS Circle Library* at

www.openminds.com/circlehome/eprint/indres/040610dstxmedicaidhealthhome.htm.

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