

Health Care Innovation Awards Round Two
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
Last Updated: May 15, 2013

Q1: What kinds of project proposals will the Health Care Innovation Awards fund in this round?

A1: The Health Care Innovation Awards Round Two will fund applicants who proposed innovative new payment and service delivery models that have a high likelihood to drive system transformation and deliver better care and lower costs for Medicare, Medicaid, and/or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) beneficiaries. In this round, CMS is specifically seeking proposals in the following categories:

1. Models that are designed to rapidly reduce Medicare, Medicaid, and/or CHIP costs in outpatient and/or post-acute settings.
2. Models that improve care for populations with specialized needs.
3. Models that test approaches for specific types of providers to transform their financial and clinical models.
4. Models that improve the health of populations – defined geographically (health of a community), clinically (health of those with specific diseases), or by socioeconomic class – through activities focused on engaging beneficiaries, prevention (for example, a diabetes prevention program or a hypertension prevention program), wellness, and comprehensive care that extend beyond the clinical service delivery setting.

For more information about the types of proposals that CMS is soliciting, please refer to the Initiative Requirements section in the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), Program Requirements section, including information on funding restrictions.

Q2: What are the primary differences between the first round and second round of the Health Care Innovation Awards funding opportunities?

A2: The first round of the Health Care Innovation Awards was a broad solicitation in CMS welcomed a broad range of proposals. In this second round, CMS is seeking to test new models in four categories described above, and to closely link the proposals to new payment models.

Q3: Will CMS offer future funding opportunities for the Health Care Innovation Awards?

A3: No future rounds of funding are being announced at this time.

Q4: When is the Letter of Intent due?

A4: The Letter of Intent (LOI) is due by 3:00 pm ET on Friday, June 28, 2013. See the FOA for a description of requirements for the LOI and application.

Q4a: When are applications due?

A4a: Applications are due by 3:00 pm ET on Thursday, August 15, 2013.

Q5: Do applicants need to register for the System for Award Management (SAM) before submitting a Letter of Intent?

A5: It is not necessary to register with SAM before submitting a Letter of Intent; however, CMS encourages all organizations to register with SAM – which will include providing DUNS and EIN/TIN numbers – as soon as possible. Registration should be completed in sufficient time to ensure that an applicant’s ability to meet required submission times is not impaired.

The Health Care Innovation Awards application must be submitted through www.grants.gov. For more information about the application process through grants.gov, including SAM registration, the DUNS number and the EIN/TIN number, please refer to the FOA.

Q6: Can potential applicants change the scope and other details of their proposed project between their Letter of Intent submission and their application for the Innovation Awards?

A6: Yes. The Letter of Intent (LOI) is required to submit an application for the Innovation Awards; however, applicants are free to make changes between submission of the LOI and application. Please note that CMS will not provide feedback on proposed projects described in the LOI. In the event changes to the proposal are made after the LOI submission, it is not necessary to update the LOI information; applications should include the most up-to-date original LOI confirmation number received upon submission. Additional information for the LOI submission will be posted on the CMS Innovation Center website at innovation.cms.gov.

Q7: Are proposals not selected during the first round of awards eligible to reapply for the second round?

A7: Yes, such applicants are eligible to submit an application for the second round of funding under the Health Care Innovation Awards, provided that they meet the eligibility criteria and that their proposals meet the objectives of the second round of the Health Care Innovation Awards.

Q8: Who is eligible to apply for the Health Care Innovation Awards?

A8: Examples of the types of organizations eligible to apply are: provider groups, health systems, payers and other private sector organizations, faith-based organizations, state and/or local governments, academic institutions, research organizations, public-private partnerships and for-profit organizations. Other types of organizations may be eligible to apply. Non-governmental organizations that are recognized as a single legal entity by the state in which it is incorporated and meet the program requirements as defined in Section III(1) of the FOA are eligible to apply.

Q9: Are there limitations on the ability of participants in existing CMS Innovation Center initiatives or demonstrations to apply for and receive awards from the Innovation Awards?

A9: All participants in existing CMS Innovation Center initiatives or demonstrations are eligible to apply. An existing participant in CMS Innovation Center initiatives or demonstrations may submit an innovative proposal in keeping with the objectives of the second round of the Health Care Innovation

Awards, and it will be evaluated according to the criteria described in the FOA. However, CMS will not fund proposals that duplicate models that CMS or other HHS entities are currently testing in other initiatives. CMS will only award projects that can ensure program integrity.

Q10: Are indirect costs included in the total award amount?

A10: Yes. The dollar amount refers to the total size of the award over 3 years. Please refer to the Funding Opportunity Announcement for guidelines on indirect costs.

Q11: Is an organization eligible to apply if they do not submit a Letter of Intent and miss the deadline to do so?

A11: No. An organization is required to submit a Letter of Intent before the deadline. Organizations are strongly encouraged to submit their Letter of Intent well in advance of the Letter of Intent deadline.