Request for Proposals

Demonstration Projects for Providers to Reduce Hypertension among Priority Populations

The American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM) has a partnership with the Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to increase physician awareness and practices to prevent, detect, and control hypertension among priority populations, and refer patients with hypertension or at high-risk for hypertension to community evidence-based self-measured blood pressure (SMBP) programs with clinical support and other related evidence-based lifestyle change programs.

Through this project, ACPM will fund up to six health care organizations/practices to develop and implement protocols to prevent, detect, and control hypertension among African-American men ages 35-64 using data from existing electronic health records (EHR)/electronic medical records (EMR) health information systems. Awards will begin in the spring of 2019 and have the opportunity to last for up to 3 years dependent on federal funding and successful completion of initial work.

Addressing and reducing the burden of hypertension (or high blood pressure) is a public health priority. Nearly 1 of 3 U.S. adults (about 75 million people) have high blood pressure and only about half (54 percent) have their high blood pressure under control. One of the populations greatly affected by this epidemic is African-American men, who suffer disproportionately from high blood pressure which is a known risk factor for heart disease and stroke.

Using a team-based care approach that includes the patient, primary care provider, and other health care professionals is a recommended strategy to reduce and control high blood pressure. Physicians and other health care professionals can play a critical role in identifying, screening, testing, and referring patients with hypertension or at high-risk for hypertension to evidence-based SMBP programs with clinical support and other related evidence-based lifestyle change programs in their communities.

About the Grant

ACPM will provide up to six grants to health care organizations to increase the identification of African-American males ages 35-64 with hypertension or at high-risk for hypertension, and
implement protocols to identify, screen, treat, and refer these patients to evidence-based SMBP programs with clinical support and other related evidence-based lifestyle change programs.

ACPM will select providers who are engaged and who have demonstrated interest in preventing, detecting, and controlling hypertension. Eligible health care organization with high rates of hypertension among of African-American male populations ages 35-64 with hypertension, currently serve African-American male population, have strong clinical-community partnerships with African-American serving community based organizations and existing health information system (Health IT) infrastructures (EHR/EMR) are strongly encouraged to apply.

Award recipients will work with ACPM to document their experiences and lessons learned through midterm and final reports that will support future case studies and provider education materials to inform and teach others.

ACPM will provide up to six grants to health care organizations, over three years, to test and evaluate innovative approaches to:

- Screen and test patients from the targeted population at high-risk for hypertension and refer these patients to appropriate evidence-based SMBP programs with clinical support and other related evidenced-based lifestyle change programs;
- Engage patients from the targeted population to enroll in the evidence-based SMBP programs with clinical support and other related evidence-based lifestyle change programs and support the referrals and retention process;
- Address a social determinant of health that is an identified barrier to screening, care management, and enrollment and retention in an evidence-based lifestyle change or evidence-based SMBP program with clinical support;
- Collect and report data on process and outcome measures relevant to experiences of the targeted population in achieving goals, and assess the impact of interventions taken.

ACPM will provide technical assistance, resources and tools, and expertise to achieve the goals of the project. This is a multi-year funding opportunity contingent upon the availability of federal funds. It is anticipated to involve a 4-month start-up period and continue for 3 years contingent upon the availability of federal funds. We request your cooperation with an additional evaluation component for a limited time period following the end of the project.

**Funding Amounts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Periods</th>
<th>Award / Funding</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Start Up (April–July 2019)</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Year (August 2019–July 2020)</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Year (August 2020–July 2021)</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
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</table>
Third Year (August 2021–July 2022) | $15,000
---|---
Funds awarded in Year 2 and Year 3 depend on successful completion of previous awards and availability of federal funding.

(Any amendments to this award opportunity, answers to questions submitted by prospective applicants, or updates about award selections will be made available in the online call for proposals at: [https://www.acpm.org/page/hypertensionawardproposals](https://www.acpm.org/page/hypertensionawardproposals).)

## Grant Requirements

Award recipients will work with ACPM to complete the following activities:

- Adopt use of an existing electronic medical record or another automated approach to support screening, testing, and referral of eligible patients;
- Identify and implement strategies to address at least one social determinant of health which supports improving, screening, care management, enrollment and program retention among the targeted patient population (African American men);
- Identify a physician within the health care organization to serve as a ‘champion’ for hypertension and be a spokesperson for the project as well as a mentor to physician peers;
- Document experiences and lessons learned as case studies to inform and teach others;
- Collect data that measures progress toward goals and inform the ability to interpret the impact of interventions;
- Provide a summary of the aggregated data to ACPM in compliance with the reporting schedule;
- Promote and disseminate project findings and project deliverables through a coordinated approach with ACPM, as availability allows.

## Award Expectations

Providers/Institutions who wish to apply for this grant should be able to fulfill the following requirements:

- Implement the 4-month start-up phase immediately upon award, and adhere to the timeline listed below.
- Collect feedback/data regarding patient progress and follow up regarding health and participation status of patients.
● Providers should not use any portion of the award to cover the cost of the SMBP program for their patients. Limited funds might be used to subsidize in home blood pressure cuffs for patients self monitoring activities.
● Provide updates on the demonstration project to ACPM physician consultants on a regular reporting schedule.
● Participate in peer-to-peer mentoring and share experiences about the demonstration project with other providers.
● Be available for marketing videos and other promotional materials and promising practice case studies to be developed by ACPM, as allowable by the awardee’s institutional guidelines.
● Check in monthly with ACPM faculty.
● Collect and share aggregated summary data regarding provider activities (process) and progress of the target patient population (outcomes).
● Assess ways to integrate successful innovations resulting from this grant into existing institutional practices and create a plan to do so.

Eligibility

Organization Type – Applicants may be:

● Community Hospitals, Regional Hospitals, Health Systems
● Physician Organizations, Independent Physician Associations
● Large Primary Care Medical Groups
● Community Health Centers, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), FQHC look-a-like organizations, Free and Charitable Clinics, Rural Health Clinics

Care Provision Model – Applicants must meet ONE OR MORE of the following criteria:

● Physicians who are involved in clinical care (having direct contact with and providing clinical care one-on-one for patients at least two days a week) in one of the above healthcare settings, and who are engaged in practicing prevention in areas with underserved and high-risk populations.
● Physicians/Clinicians or health care professionals (nurse practitioners, registered nurses, physician assistants, pharmacists or registered dietitians) who provide direct clinical care and currently engage their high-risk patients in brief lifestyle medicine counseling or education.
● Physicians or clinicians who refer their patients to any evidence-based community-based SMBP program with clinical support and other related evidence-based lifestyle change programs.

Readiness – Providers who meet EITHER of the following screening practices criteria are eligible to apply.
• Physicians and clinicians who already have a system in place to identify, screen/test, treat, and refer their patients to an evidence-based community-based SMBP program with clinical support and/or a lifestyle change program and want to test the effectiveness of their current system or protocols.
• Physicians and clinicians who do not have a current system using existing protocols. These providers are actively working to make changes to their workflow or their referral process.

Grantee Benefits

Those who are selected as award winners will receive the following benefits.

• Technical assistance, expertise and support from ACPM physician members with expertise in hypertension and minority patient populations.
• Access to the Lifestyle Medicine Curriculum online, at a value of $1,000 per individual provider during the project demonstration period and up to 36 CME/MOC towards their professional development.
• Ability to serve as champions, promote your demonstration projects, and mentor other providers.
• Share findings of your demonstration project, and participate in the ACPM annual meeting.

Project Timeline

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>February 14, 2019</td>
<td>ACPM announces call for proposals</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 14–March 30, 2019</td>
<td>Health care organizations may prepare and submit applications</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 11, 2019 5:00 PM EDT</td>
<td>Deadline to submit questions to <a href="mailto:grants@acpm.org">grants@acpm.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>March 14, 2019 5:00 PM EDT</td>
<td>Organizers will publish written answers to applicant questions on the online call for proposals</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 30, 2019, 5:00 PM EDT</td>
<td>Award application submission deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 11, 2019</td>
<td>ACPM announces award recipients</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2019</td>
<td>Initial funds disbursed to up to six (6) award recipients</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 2019</td>
<td>Recipient health care organizations begin implementing the project-related components and tasks</td>
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<tr>
<td>April–July 2019</td>
<td>Award recipients execute on the project components and tasks</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 20-23, 2019</td>
<td>Award recipients participate in ACPM’s annual conference in Pittsburgh, PA</td>
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ACPM project team conducts site visits at each health care organization

Health care organizations complete start-up phase project tasks, share lessons learned, and develop next steps and recommendations.

Award recipients will check in with ACPM faculty monthly. ACPM will share subject matter expertise and offer technical assistance to advance the project.

Subsequent project periods will be for 12 months, from August 2019–July 2020.

Contact

Contact ACPM if you have any questions or need clarification regarding this request for proposals. Questions received by email by March 11, 2019 at 5:00 PM EDT will be addressed and answers will be posted on the online call for proposals by March 14, 2019 at 5:00 PM EDT.

- Email: grants@acpm.org
- Phone: 202.466.2044 x115

Application and Deadlines

Interested health care organizations should answer this call for proposals and complete the online application form no later than March 30, 2019 at 5:00 PM EDT.

Prior to submitting an application, prospective applicants may submit questions or requests for clarification regarding this request for proposals in writing to grants@acpm.org by March 11, 2019 at 5:00 PM EDT. Answers to these questions will be published on the online call for proposals by March 14, 2019 at 5:00 PM EDT.

Award recipients will be notified no later than April 11, 2019 and will be given four months to set up their demonstration projects (April–July 2019).

References