



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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Paul R. LePage

GOVERNOR

September 19, 2012

Michelle Feagins
Grants Management Officer
Office of Acquisition and Grants Management
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
US Department of Health and Human Services
Room 733H-02
Washington, DC 20201

Letter of Endorsement: *Testing the Maine Innovation Model*

Dear Ms. Feagins:

In this time of crippling healthcare costs, rising chronic illness rates, and an aging population, developing ways to delivery high quality care at the lowest cost is critical to maintain both the physical and fiscal health of Maine's citizens. Maine's application for Cooperative Agreement funding is a logical continuation and advancement of delivery system/payment reform initiatives that are already transforming healthcare in Maine – improving care, lowering costs, and fostering patient accountability. *Testing the Maine Innovation Model* will enhance the involvement in, and impact of Maine's public payer sector (MaineCare and Medicare) on cost reduction, quality improvement, and informed patient engagement – i.e. the *Triple Aim* goals – through alignment with the commercial market and a continued commitment to transparent public reporting of cost and quality measures.

The **Maine Health Care Innovation Plan** reflects the dynamic reality of Maine's healthcare transformation initiatives, including its aligned, collaborative, and multi-stakeholder nature. It builds on the foundation of multi-stakeholder enhanced primary care embodied in the Maine multi-payer Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) Pilot. The PCMH Pilot is the foundation upon which the CMS Maine Multi-Payer Advanced Primary Care Practice Demonstration (MAPCP) and MaineCare Health Homes (HH) initiatives are based, and all include the use of Community Care Teams (CCTs) to manage high risk / high cost patients. All these initiatives are moving to integrate primary care with behavioral health. Enhanced primary care is also the base for the several multi-stakeholder / multi-payer Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) that are emerging around the state to help control costs.

The Innovation Plan aligns with the Maine Department of Health and Human Services' MaineCare Value-Based Purchasing Strategy. Announced in 2011, this strategy includes a commitment to increased transparency of cost and quality outcomes, rewards for performance, payment reform, and a move to Accountable Communities that include shared savings and risk and are tied to quality improvement.



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Testing the Maine Innovation Model (the name of our project) leverages current successes and brings the State's investment to the next level by: (1) supporting and strengthening enhanced primary care; (2) supporting and strengthening alignment between primary care and public health, behavioral health, and long-term care; (3) supporting the development of new workforce models for the transformed system; and (4) supporting the formation of multi-payer ACOs that commit to value and performance-based payment reform and public reporting of common quality benchmarks.

Endorsement - I am endorsing the Innovation Plan and the application for Model Testing funding under the State Innovation Models FOA (CMS-1G1-12-001).

Title of Project - *Testing the Maine Innovation Model*

Principal Contact Person:

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Collaborating Organizations and Departments:

Maine Department of Health & Human Services
University of Maine System
Maine Health Management Coalition
HealthInfoNet
Maine Quality Counts!
Health systems, including hospitals, primary and specialty care
Federally Qualified Health Centers
Behavioral health organizations
Professional associations
Employers
Payers



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