



## **Center for Healthcare Transparency Awards \$2.3M in Grants to Advance Transparency across the U.S.**

**PORTLAND, Maine – September 29, 2014** – The Center for Healthcare Transparency (CHT) is funding 14 cutting-edge regional organizations to lay the groundwork for making meaningful information on the cost and quality of healthcare available to 50% of the U.S. by 2020. The Center is a non-profit organization created to address the biggest barrier to healthcare transparency today: access to credible data. The Center for Healthcare Transparency is leveraging the know-how of successful efforts in markets across the country and linking these efforts to federal and state policy efforts to improve the value of healthcare.

Measuring and publically reporting the quality and cost of care gives all stakeholders a better understanding of how to improve the system. The provider-level transparency that will be made possible by the Center will lead to more informed healthcare purchasing decisions by consumers and will enable public and private healthcare purchasers to design pay-for-value programs. Concurrently, providers will be able to make better decisions about how to improve the quality and efficiency of the care they offer.

Led by the Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement (NRHI) and the Pacific Business Group on Health (PBGH), the Center for Healthcare Transparency is creating a practical five-year implementation plan to make provider cost and quality data available for at least 50% of the U.S. The Center will be synthesizing best practices from high-performing regional organizations with track records of successful public reporting and will incorporate findings from three performance information methodology pilots. These grant recipients include Regional Healthcare Improvement Collaboratives (RHICs), Health Information Exchanges (HIEs), an All Payer Claims Database (APCD), and a large safety net hospital system.

“These organizations have been national leaders in providing meaningful and reliable cost and quality information to the public. They represent all of the perspectives in the healthcare puzzle – providers, patients, health plans, employers and public purchasers. Most important, they have actually used data to inform their communities and to make care better, and can do so across the country,” says Elizabeth Mitchell, President and CEO, NRHI. Their recommendations will inform CHT’s blueprint for regional organizations to produce information that is credible, viable, and scalable across the US.

Grantees include:

- [California Healthcare Performance Information System](#)
- [Center for Improving Value in Health Care](#) (Colorado)
- [The Health Collaborative](#) and [HealthBridge](#) (Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana)
- [HealthInsight](#) (Utah, New Mexico, Nevada)
- [Integrated Healthcare Association](#) (California)
- [Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum/Louisiana State University Health Care Services](#)
- [Maine Health Management Coalition](#)
- [Minnesota Community Measurement](#)
- [Oregon Health Care Quality Corporation](#)
- [Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality/Wisconsin Health Information Organization/Wisconsin Statewide Health Information Network](#)

The Center for Healthcare Transparency is also funding three research projects that will evaluate novel and practical methodological approaches to making high-value performance information available to the public, building upon a federated regional data infrastructure. These projects tackle tough, but vitally important technical issues for making transparency possible. The grant award recipients are:

- The [Health Collaborative](#) and [HealthBridge](#): To test new methods for scalable electronic clinical data reporting and linking to administrative claims and to study new methods for providing value information to consumers in a meaningful way
- [Massachusetts Health Quality Partners & California Healthcare Performance Information System](#): To evaluate innovative patient experience data collection methods that can be implemented on a wide scale
- [Utah Health Information Network](#): To pilot capturing and combining clinical and claims data and performing analyses focused on quality measures that track three major health concerns: diabetes, obesity, and asthma

Funded by the Laura and John Arnold Foundation, the Center has attracted experts from a wide range of backgrounds and is guided by an Executive Committee including providers, consumers, employers and representatives from the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. These national experts are joining professionals who are implementing transparency, transformation, and public reporting on the ground in markets as different as Louisiana, Oregon, Utah, and Massachusetts.

“The Center for Healthcare Transparency is a platform to accelerate healthcare cost and quality transparency across the nation and public reporting of credible and actionable information is essential to meeting the transparency challenge,” says David Lansky, Ph.D., CEO of PBGH. “PBGH brings the large employer perspective, influence, and years of experience to the transparency discussion. Our members are committed to testing and scaling innovative healthcare models

and are pleased to be working with the regional collaboratives and health information exchanges to overcome the current obstacles to achieving healthcare transparency.”

### **About the Center for Healthcare Transparency**

The Center for Healthcare Transparency (CHT) is an initiative led by the Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement (NRHI) and the Pacific Business Group on Health (PBGH). The Center is working with organizations across the country to provide meaningful cost and quality information to 50% of the US by 2020. By leveraging the groundbreaking work done in regional data and analytics organizations, the Center brings the power of informed decision-making to every stakeholder in the healthcare puzzle – patients, providers, plans, employers and public purchasers. Follow the Center on Twitter at [@CHT\\_Transparent](#)

### **About NRHI**

The Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement is a national organization representing regional multi-stakeholder groups working towards achieving the Triple Aim of better health, better care, and reduced costs through continuous improvement. NRHI and all of its members are non-profit organizations, separate from state government, working directly with physicians, hospitals, health plans, and patients using data to improve health care. Visit us at [www.nrhi.org](http://www.nrhi.org) and follow NRHI on Twitter at [@RegHealthImprov](#)

### **About Pacific Business Group on Health**

PBGH is a non-profit business coalition focused on improving the quality and affordability of healthcare. The group includes 60 large health care purchaser members representing more than 10 million employees, retirees, and dependents. [www.pbgh.org](http://www.pbgh.org)

### **About the Laura and John Arnold Foundation**

The [Laura and John Arnold Foundation](#) (LJAF) is a private foundation committed to producing substantial, widespread, and lasting reforms that will maximize opportunities and minimize injustice in our society. LJAF has offices in Houston and New York City. [www.arnoldfoundation.org](http://www.arnoldfoundation.org).

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