

Center for Healthcare Transparency

Request for Proposals - Regional Data Center Collaborative Participation

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I. Project Description and Background

Center for Healthcare Transparency

The Center for Healthcare Transparency is a non-profit public benefit corporation that intends to make transparent and meaningful provider cost and quality data available for 50% of the U.S. population by 2020. The Center is involving multiple stakeholders in developing a viable plan to achieve this goal in five years.

The Center for Healthcare Transparency will:

- Determine what information is most important for purchasers, patients and providers and how it may be used to drive improvement in quality and costs.
- Design a national data infrastructure to produce and publish meaningful and accurate information on healthcare costs and quality.
- Help consumers, communities, providers, employers and insurers use this information to improve the quality and reduce the costs of healthcare across the U.S.

The Center for Healthcare Transparency will use a federated, regional approach to bring the best work being done in local communities to a national scale. By a federated approach, we mean an efficient process of getting national data to regional centers and the data infrastructure, measurement and reporting processes which enable regional production of transparent, accurate and credible healthcare quality and cost information.

Working closely with innovative Regional Health Improvement Collaboratives (RHICs), physician, purchaser and consumer leaders, state and federal governments and other stakeholders, the Center aims to accelerate the availability of transparent information, achieve significant efficiencies in the production of cost and quality information, and engage key stakeholders to effectively use the data for improvement.

The Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement (NRHI) is partnering with its member, Pacific Business Group on Health, to deliver the first stage of this initiative.

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Purpose of the Regional Data Center Collaborative

The Regional Data Center Collaborative members will play a key role in informing and defining the Center for Healthcare Transparency's five year plan. With input and leadership from the Center's Executive Committee, User and Technical Advisory Councils and with support and guidance of project staff, the members of the Regional Data Center Collaborative will create a set of best practice healthcare quality and cost transparency standards and processes that can realistically be rolled out through a federated model to cover 50% of the US population (likely in phases) starting in 2015.

Primary Collaborative Participant Activities

- Share experience and identify common standards and best practices for data collection, management, integration, analysis and publication.
- Agree on current best practices to replicate or build on for developing contracts, data use agreements, analytics, reports and data presentation.
- Contribute to a resource library of best practices.
- Identify and develop potential solutions to barriers to developing and publishing comparable information on cost, quality and patient experience.

Participation Requirements

- Willingness to make current data specs, interfaces, analytics, measures, contracts, legal documents, software tools, data presentation templates, etc. available to other collaborative members and project staff for the purpose of identifying or designing the best options for the Collaborative to recommend adopting.
- Willingness to contribute standards, algorithms, practices, templates, etc. to a Resource Library that will be available to participants and NRHI members. (There may be specific items that will not be able to be shared in the library for business reasons, but the default will be to make examples and best practices available to others.)
- Dedication of a staff person (0.25 FTE or more) with significant data management and analytic experience to identify your organization's current practices and work directly with NRHI staff and peers from other regional data centers.
- Participation in three in-person meetings plus monthly calls during this 18-month grant.
- Participation in at least one working group (phone-calls and online)
- Expectation and ability to begin to implement at least some of the standards, measures and practices recommended by the Collaborative as a result of this work after the 18- month period.

Benefits of Participation

We expect that this project will contribute significantly to enabling national and regional data to flow efficiently to regional data centers and will reduce future costs of producing and publishing accurate and credible healthcare quality and cost data for the participants.

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Participating in the process will help ensure that your organization's priorities and practices will be reflected and incorporated in the design of a national federated model. This process will bring visibility and potential widespread adoption of innovations and best practices of the participants among stakeholders, including national policy makers.

You will have the opportunity to participate in multi-stakeholder forums with select national experts to design strategic and operational solutions to key challenges of data use and measurement focused on implementation.

We also expect this project will make a strong case for foundation funding for the first five years of a national roll-out of this approach and may lead to funding for the actors who are best positioned to put the plan into action.

II. Funding Available

CHT will be providing grants of up to \$150,000 over the 18-month project to offset participants' staff costs, associated overhead and travel expenses.

However, proposals are requested for participation in the project, not simply for grant funding, so regional data centers that do not need grant support to underwrite their costs are also encouraged to apply.

III. Proposal Requirements & Scoring

Minimum requirements

- Access to multi-payer claims data (preference for all payer claims data) and/or access to clinical data, and/or patient reported data.
- Experience collecting and managing multi payer claims data, clinical data, and/or patient reported data.
- Either in-house or contracted analytic expertise and ability to produce reports from available data.
- Commitment to or experience with publicly reporting at least one element of performance information (quality, safety, cost and/or patient experience).
- Processes and governance structures that ensure the multi stakeholder neutral party nature of collaborative work.
- Staff capacity to fully participate in the project

This is a planning grant. Participants will not be expected to run data analyses to participate in the Regional Data Center Collaborative. They will, however, be encouraged to draw upon related analytic experience to enrich the Collaborative.

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Future obligations for participants

A major goal of the project is consensus on a set of reporting standards and an effective approach to transparency. All participants should be ready to move toward agreed upon practices at the conclusion of the project but there will be no obligation for any regional data center to put in place any particular standard or practice.

Participation in future phases of the work may include production obligations, but that will be determined through a separate selection process.

IV. Proposal Scoring

The Executive Committee of the Center for Healthcare Transparency will review and select participants based on the following selection criteria and weighting:

- Data availability (up to 30 points)
- Analytic experience (up to 20 points)
- Publishing capability (up to 20 points)
- Experience working with stakeholders to use data (Up to 20 points)
- Best- in-class (Up to 10 points)
- Collaboration experience (Up to 10 points)
- Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement (NRHI) membership (Up to 10 points)

The Executive Committee retains the discretion to make exceptions to these criteria to meet the overall project objectives.

V. Proposal Submission Process

- Proposals must be submitted electronically by 5pm PST on Monday, June 16, 2014 to RFP@nrhi.org
- A sample participation and funding agreement will be available to potential applicants in advance of the submission deadline
- Updated RFP FAQs will be available on the Network for Regional Healthcare Improvement website www.nrhi.org by May 23rd.
- Additional questions may be submitted to RFP@nrhi.org

VI. Proposal Documents

- Please respond to the questions in Attachment A. Brevity is encouraged and appreciated. Project staff will follow up for additional information as needed.

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Attachment A - Request for Proposal Questions

Organization Name:

Contact Person and Title:

Contact Email:

Contact Phone:

Brevity is encouraged and appreciated. We expect responses to most questions will be fewer than 75 words. If we need additional details, we will follow-up with the contact person.

Data availability

1. *Describe your access to multi-payer claims data, specifically: sources, vendors or organizations who receive data from payers, number of lives, level of patient identification, frequency and continuous years of available claims data?*
2. *Describe your access to clinical data (Sources, frequency, level of patient identification, how do you access it, content)*
3. *Describe your access to patient experience data (Sources, frequency, level of provider identification, how you access it)*
4. *What primary data does your organization collect itself (claims, clinical or patient experience) and for how long have you collected it?*
5. *What size population do you serve? Over what geographical area?*
6. *Can you track members across coverage and providers, in claims data, in clinical data?*
7. *Have you matched claims and clinical data at the patient level? With what level of accuracy and for what number of patients?*
8. *Have you been approved as a Qualified Entity by CMS? If you are in process to become a QE, what stage of the process have you reached? If not, do you have alternative sources of Medicare data?*
9. *How many relevant cost variables are contained in your database or included in your alternative cost reporting methodology? Do you have permission to use them all? At what level of granularity?*
10. *Do you have either an established voluntary data submission program and/or receive data through a local legislative mandate for disclosure of cost and quality data? For patient experience?*

Analytic experience

1. *Do you build your own structured warehouses to support analytics or reporting?*
2. *What primary data does your organization manage in-house?*
3. *Can you access data vendors' warehouses directly, or do you get data extracts?*
4. *How do you quality control for completeness and accuracy at the primary level of data collection or aggregation? What standards do you use? Where is that done?*
5. *Please briefly describe your experience analyzing claims, clinical and/or patient experience data, including any experience computing metrics.*

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6. *Do you apply any of your own or 3rd party groupers, risk scores, or other algorithms in-house? If so, what type?*
7. *Which of the following do you routinely handle in house? Measure development? Measure testing? For which types of data?*
8. *How many measures do you currently report publically? Privately?*
9. *Please detail your experience to date integrating more than one type of data (claims, clinical, patient experience)*
10. *Who are your primary vendor partners? (For each type of data)*

Publishing capability

1. *Do you have a public reporting program of healthcare quality, cost, safety, and/or patient experience? If not do you intend to publicly report in the next three years? How has this intent been formalized?*
2. *Please specify reports published and level reported. Geography? Facility? Practice? Provider?*
3. *Do you have an up to date provider database/directory with practice and system affiliations? (Primary care? Specialists? Hospitals and/or systems?) If so, at what percentage of completion for each directory?*
4. *What level and type of private reporting do you do today? Geography? Facility? Practice? Provider?*
5. *Please describe any contractual limits with data suppliers or members on analyzing or reporting healthcare costs or quality that could inhibit additional reporting.*
6. *Do you make data available to clients or other users through a secure portal or other technology?*
7. *What data? PHI to providers? Clinical data?*

Experience working with stakeholders to use data

1. *Please briefly describe your experience working with physicians or physician groups to use quality, patient experience, cost, or resource use information.*
2. *Please briefly describe your experience working with healthcare purchasers to use quality, cost or resource use information.*
3. *Please briefly describe your experience translating data for multi stakeholder audiences including consumers, health systems, policymakers, etc.*
4. *Please briefly describe your experience using data for quality improvement initiatives.*
5. *Please briefly describe any other relevant experience working with physicians, employers and/or health plans on using quality or cost information which you think may be relevant to this project.*

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Collaboration experience

1. *Briefly describe how your organization acts as a convener and incorporates multiple stakeholder perspectives into data use and reporting, either through your governance structure or through collaborative processes.*
2. *Please list your participation in federally or privately funded collaborative data management, benchmarking or data reporting initiatives which go or have gone beyond your region and any current participation which requires advancements in your data integration and reporting capabilities over the 18-month award period. Please briefly describe any significant milestones.*

NRHI Membership

1. *Are you a NRHI Member or Associate Member or have you applied to become one?*

Staff capacity

1. *Have you identified a lead staff person from your organization for this project? Please list title and expected dedication.*
2. *We anticipate three in-person meetings in addition to monthly calls. Can you and/or your team commit to the planning and project meetings required for this project?*

Other

Please share any other information that you would like to include regarding your participation in this project.

Grant Funding Request

Funds are available to offset regional data centers' staff costs and associated overhead, up to \$150,000 per data center.

To request grant funding, please provide a summary budget for your organization's participation in the Regional Data Center Collaborative for the 18 months of the project

Note, we will cover participants' travel and lodging costs for the three in-person meetings separately, so these costs should not be included in your budget request.