

## **Launch of NRHI's State Innovation Model (SIM) Affinity Groups**

### **Overview**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) announced in December the second round of State Innovation Model (SIM) cooperative agreement awards. Across NRHI members, 11 RHICs have a Round 1 or 2 test award, and nine RHICs have a design award.

NRHI will convene two affinity groups – both starting in mid-January - available only for NRHI members:

1. NRHI members in states that received a design grant; and
2. NRHI members in states that have a Round 1 or 2 test grant.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the affinity groups will be:

- To provide a confidential and private space for members in test or design states to share successful strategies, challenges, lessons learned among other RHICs;
- To identify substantive issues or questions that would benefit from more open discussion in a public forum;
- To identify common core ideas, responses, and recommendations around systems transformation that NRHI can offer to the field, including perhaps to CMMI and/or state agencies, i.e., NRHI could be an informal “finger on the pulse” of how SIM is being received/ perceived within communities.

Although the state awardees will likely need time to engage with external stakeholders, we can use this time to learn from each other about each state's innovation plan, anticipated roles of individuals RHICs, and advice from members involved in Round 1.

### **Topics and Events**

We will solicit ideas from members on what they want to talk about. Topics will likely vary between members in design states versus test states. Potential topics might include:

- What to expect when you're expecting SIM, i.e., “reality check” conversations
- Successful strategies for working with states
- High-yield mistakes to avoid
- RHIC building blocks for SIM (e.g., provider directories, APCDs, communications support to states, etc.)
- Bringing employers to the table



- Coordination with other multi-payer initiatives
- Strategic approaches in states with multiple RHICs

Depending on what members want, the workgroups could include:

- Monthly videoconferences;
- Ad hoc brainstorming calls;
- One-on-one peer-to-peer discussions;
- One-pagers on recommendations;
- Exchanging tools/ materials/ templates; and
- Separate mentoring call with Round 1 and Round 2 test states.

#### **NRHI Affinity Groups vs Collaborative Health Network's SIM Community**

To avoid confusion, please note that NRHI is also launching a more open, more public discussion of SIM via CHN. The purpose is very different: CHN will provide a national and neutral forum for all multi-payer stakeholders – beyond NRHI - to exchange ideas, crowd-source questions, and learn about strategies being used in SIM programs in other regions/communities.

CHN can be a dissemination vehicle for recommendations and best practices identified by the NRHI affinity workgroups. It can be used to shine light on issues identified by the NRHI affinity workgroups that would benefit from a more open, public, multi-faceted discussion.

#### **Next Steps**

Dianne Hasselman will email you regarding your interest in participating in the NRHI affinity group.

If you have any questions or suggestions about what would be helpful to your RHIC, please contact Dianne Hasselman ([dhasselman@nrhi.org](mailto:dhasselman@nrhi.org)).