

# CONSUMER VOICES FOR INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM



The *Center for Consumer Engagement in Health Innovation* (the Center) believes that consumers (patients and family members) have a unique and critically important role to play in shaping how health care is delivered in this country. However, the consumer voice in public policy and health care governance is often missing. The **Consumer Voices for Innovation (CVI) Grant Program** provides funding to state consumer health advocacy organizations to build consumer engagement in health system transformation. The goal of the grant program is to elevate consumer voices to advocate for models of delivery reform that are person-centered, consumer led, and responsive to the needs of the community. All grantees focus on organizing in low-income communities, communities of color and/or among seniors and people with disabilities. The projects focus on health care innovation in public programs, particularly Medicaid.

The Center is pleased to be providing organizations in six states with one-year grants that end February 28, 2018. In total, the CVI program provides just under half a million dollars in funding.

## **Maryland Citizens Health Initiative (MCHI)**

The Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative Education Fund, Inc. is mobilizing a diverse coalition of stakeholders to preserve coverage gains made in recent years under the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid as well as expanding the Maryland Faith Health Network to more fully engage consumers in health system transformation. The Network uses lay faith leaders to support fellow congregants' needs during hospitalizations and post-discharge.

**Contact Person:** Vincent DeMarco, Executive Director

## **Take Action Minnesota (TAMN)**

The TAMN Education Fund is organizing grassroots consumers and in-state advocacy organizations around defending and improving the overall transparency and effectiveness of Minnesota's successful Medicaid innovations, like Minnesota Senior Health Options and Integrated Health Partnerships, which are what Minnesota calls Accountable Care Organizations, to better protect and reflect the interests and needs of consumers. TAMN will also provide Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton and supportive members of the Minnesota Congressional delegation with the information they need to defend the Medicaid program by highlighting the threat to these innovative programs.

**Contact Person:** Chris Conry, Strategic Campaigns Director

## **Make the Road New York (MRNY)**

MRNY's CVI Project goals are to:

- (1) Enhance community member engagement to better understand the delivery system changes happening to Health + Hospitals (New York City's public hospital system) and to the One City Health (OCH) PPS (Performing Provider System)
- (2) Improve OCH PPS's infrastructure and funding to allow for community member engagement and Community Based Organization (CBO) involvement in the PPS, as well as increase programmatic funding for CBOs
- (3) Increase involvement of Community Health Workers in the OCH PPS
- (4) Advocate for the importance of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and a robust Medicaid program.

MRNY is working to achieve these goals by educating community members, organizing Community

Health Workers, obtaining earned media, enhancing their relationship with the OCH PPS and collaborating with coalition partners and ally organizations. MRNY will also partner with key elected officials to protect the ACA and maintain a robust Medicaid program.

**Contact Person:** Rebecca Telzak, Health Programs Director

### **Oregon State Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG)**

Through a comprehensive effort to transform the way health care is paid for and delivered in the state Medicaid program, Oregon has become a leader in health policy innovation aimed at containing costs, improving quality and improving community health. With its partners, Unite Oregon and the Oregon Latino Health Coalition, OSPIRG is collaborating on a targeted grassroots organizing campaign to enhance consumer engagement with the state's delivery reform efforts at the local level in a strategically targeted region of the state--Southern Oregon. OSPIRG seeks to improve meaningful consumer engagement in delivery reform structures in that region of the state and establish "proof of concept" for a broader statewide organizing effort. OSPIRG will also collaborate on a range of advocacy activities aimed at strengthening transparency and accountability for health systems participating in the state's Medicaid transformation program.

**Contact Person:** Jesse Ellis O'Brien, Policy Director

### **Pennsylvania Health Access Network (PHAN)**

Pennsylvania is moving rapidly toward requiring Medicaid and dual eligible Medicare recipients needing long-term services and supports (LTSS) to enroll in managed care. The implementation and rollout of the new Community HealthChoices (CHC) program will impact approximately 420,613 individuals. Of those, 60% are individuals over 60 years old. PHAN's goal is to ensure that there is robust consumer engagement in this process. PHAN will identify and build capacity among eligible individuals and organizations to engage and protect consumers in the transition to CHC. At the same time PHAN will continue to mobilize these and other constituencies to protect Medicaid, emphasizing the importance of a strong Medicaid program to Pennsylvania's health system transformation efforts.

**Contact Person:** Antoinette Kraus, Executive Director

### **Rhode Island Organizing Project (RIOP)**

Rhode Island's CVI Project is a joint initiative led by RIOP in collaboration with the Economic Progress Institute and the Senior Agenda Coalition. The goal of the project is to organize seniors and people with disabilities to speak up about the quality of their health under a new state program called the Integrated Care Initiative (ICI). The ICI offers a new managed care option for persons who are eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare. The project will also organize to insure that seniors and people with disabilities have access to services that affect their health such as transportation, food and housing. The project will also engage in efforts to defend the ACA and Medicaid from changes that will limit innovation and reduce insurance access, affordability and quality of care.

**Contact Person:** Ray Gagne, Executive Director

## **Impact/Evaluation**

Through the work of our state partners, we expect to:

- Reach more than 23,000 people across the six funded states
- Add 1,850 people to the grassroots base of consumers interested in health innovation issues
- Develop between 110 and 130 new consumer leaders on health innovation issues

**The impact of the CVI Program will be evaluated by the [Institute for Community Health \(ICH\)](#).**

## **For More Information:**

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