



Ten Frequently Asked Questions

Colorado's State Innovation Model (SIM) Grant

JUNE 2013

1. What is SIM?

The federal Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) is encouraging states to develop and test state-based models to transform health care payment and delivery systems. The program is called the State Innovation Models Initiative, or SIM. CMMI hopes that the best ideas make a real difference in the health of a state's residents and that the ideas eventually can be shared and brought to scale nationally.

2. What is Colorado's SIM project?

CMMI has awarded Colorado \$2 million to strengthen a plan that we submitted in September 2012. Our revised and updated plan will describe Colorado's overall strategy to achieve the Triple Aim of better health, better patient experiences and lower costs. It will also detail Colorado's proposed health care innovation model, which focuses on integrating behavioral and physical health in primary care medical homes.

In short, the state innovation plan – which we are calling the Colorado Health Care Innovation Plan – will be our strategic roadmap to transforming our health care system.

3. What happened to our original SIM proposal?

Six states won grants to begin testing their health care models. Colorado and two other states received pre-testing awards to keep working on their plans.

CMMI indicated that our new plan should impact a large percentage of our state population, reflect a clear vision for payment and delivery system reform, show a strong commitment to multi-payer participation – both public and private – and connect to public health in a meaningful way.

Moving forward, we will build on the SIM work done last year by stakeholders while making sure that we communicate our shared vision, where we are today and where we intend to be, how we will overcome barriers and challenges, and how we will capitalize on opportunities.

4. How does the Colorado Health Care Innovation Plan fit with other work that is underway?

The Colorado Health Care Innovation Plan builds on a solid foundation of planning, including "The State of Health," Governor Hickenlooper's vision for making Colorado the healthiest state, the 208 Commission's recommendations, local community health needs assessments, the Colorado Health Workforce Development Strategy, and many others.

But this project does feature unique elements, including:

- Combining payment reform and system redesign elements.
- Integrating behavioral health into primary care.
- Creating an information technology base.

5. Why are stakeholders across Colorado being asked for their help?

Active, effective and committed stakeholder involvement is the key to our success. We will only be able to develop a robust plan for transforming Colorado's health care system with input from stakeholders from across the spectrum and throughout our state.

Colorado must demonstrate that:

- We have a shared vision.
- We have a strong and innovative health care model to test.
- We have a committed, engaged community that can deliver on our proposed vision for health care reform.

The more than 200 experts who have agreed to help will make sure that this happens.

6. What exactly is required of members of the stakeholder groups?

Members of the stakeholder groups have been selected based on their expertise, creativity and leadership.

We need stakeholders to:

- Help shape, and eventually approve, the Colorado Health Care Innovation Plan. This includes our overall vision and the strategies to achieve that vision.
- Analyze our proposed model to integrate behavioral and physical health in primary care medical homes. Focused stakeholder groups, including payers, providers and the public health community, will help identify changes that must occur in order for the model to work.
- Help keep Colorado on track to transform our health care system, even after the SIM planning is done.

7. Where are we spending the \$2 million?

The Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) is managing the project. Colorado is using its resources through 18 sub-grants and contracts to:

- Engage in robust stakeholder engagement to achieve a multiple payer plan that ensures the sustainability of our workforce, strengthens the connection between clinical services and community prevention, and engages private payers and their resources.

- Bring all of the stakeholders needed to create this transformation - consumers, providers, universities, advocates, business, state agencies, health plans, hospitals, education leadership and Native American tribes – to the table.
- Create multi-payer payment approaches that support and reward this collaboration on both the public and private sides.
- Develop a roadmap for needed practice and scopes of practice transformation as well as the supports to make them happen.
- Incorporate the homeless, tribal communities and school-based populations into Colorado's vision for integrating health care.
- Ensure timely and appropriate information and data sharing among providers and between providers and patients to support and promote integrated care.

8. When is the deadline?

Colorado must submit the Colorado Health Care Innovation Plan by October 30. Between now and then, there will be a regular schedule of stakeholder meetings.

9. Will there be another SIM grant opportunity?

We hope that there will be another round of funding later this year. And when that happens, we will submit a proposal seeking to move forward and begin testing our model to integrate behavioral and physical health in primary care medical homes. We believe Colorado will be at the front of the line based on the work we are doing right now.

Regardless of another opportunity, however, this creates a plan for Colorado to move forward with a vision for health care integration that is shared by the community. We are all committed to integrating health in Colorado – with or without a SIM grant. The time is right for us to make this happen, with the help of committed people across our state.

10. How can I follow the progress of SIM?

Visit www.ColoradoSIM.org or contact Sara Richey, sara.richey@state.co.us for more information.