

Innovation Advisors Program
Frequently Asked Questions
As of January 3, 2011

GENERAL

What is the Innovation Advisors Program?

The Innovation Advisors Program is a new Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation initiative designed to engage health care leaders to refine, apply, and sustain managerial and technical skills necessary to drive delivery system reform for the benefit of Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries. Through this program, the selected individuals will test and support new models of payment and care delivery to meet the “three-part aim” of better health, better care and lower costs through continuous improvement.

What is the purpose of the Innovation Advisors Program?

The Innovation Center seeks to introduce transformative models of care delivery across the nation that will meet the aims of better health, better care and reduced costs for Medicare, Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries. The Center tests innovative payment and service delivery models and, after rigorous evaluation, spreads successful models to larger groups of beneficiaries who would benefit. Innovation Advisors will help test and refine these new models, and through the Innovation Advisors Program, the Innovation Center will deepen the nation’s capacity for transforming the healthcare system with this network of experts in delivery system reform.

The Innovation Advisors Program will support individuals in the health care system to expand their knowledge in the areas of healthcare finance; population health; systems analysis; and operations research (including the ability to test new models and analyze system performance through statistics). Ultimately these individuals will support the Innovation Center in testing new models of care delivery; utilizing their knowledge and skills in their home organization or area in pursuit of the “three-part aim” of improving health, improving care, and lowering costs through continuous improvement; working with other local organizations or groups in driving delivery system reform; developing new ideas or innovations for possible testing or diffusion by the Innovation Center, and building durable skill in system improvement throughout their communities.

What is the duration of the Innovation Advisors Program?

The initial commitment of Innovation Advisors covers at least one year, but the Innovation Center may continue to seek support from Innovation Advisors beyond that period if those advisors agree.

APPLICATION PROCESS

How many Innovation Advisors has the Innovation Center selected?

In December 2011, the Innovation Center selected 73 individuals from 920 applications to participate in the Innovation Advisors Program. The program will select and develop as many as 200 Innovation

Advisors within the first year. The 73 Innovation Advisors announced today are from 27 States and the District of Columbia.

It is anticipated that the remaining advisors will be selected by June 2012 and that applications for the Innovation Advisors Program will be reopened in Spring 2012.

Who is eligible to apply?

Any professional employed by a public health or health care facility, institution or department can apply to be an Innovation Advisor. Candidates may include, but are not limited to, physicians, nurses, allied health professionals, instructors, and non-clinicians (i.e. health care executives, practice managers) with experience in health care or public health.

What are the selection criteria?

The following criteria were taken into account in selecting Innovation Advisors:

- The individual's career achievements;
- The individual's pre-existing skill set (and its relevance to transforming the healthcare delivery system for Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP beneficiaries);
- The quality of their proposed innovation project in their home organization; and
- Their organization's explicit commitment to their work.

Diversity of location and the individual's job type and its value to the program also were considered.

What is the time commitment of an Innovation Advisor?

Innovation Advisors are expected to commit up to 10 hours per week during the initial six month period, with similar or less involvement thereafter depending on an individual's proposed work plan. Selected individuals will receive guidance and specific information related to the required activities of the program in various on-site and in-person meetings as well as on-going meetings that will occur primarily through remote, virtual sessions. Advisors will also meet together at the regional level each quarter and at CMS in Baltimore, MD once each year to exchange insights, report on breakthrough successes and solve joint challenges.

Are Innovation Advisors employees of the government?

No. Advisors will not become employees of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, or any other government office or agency.

Does an Innovation Advisor get a stipend? If so, how much is it?

An Innovation Advisor's home organization or group will be eligible to receive a stipend of up to \$20,000. The stipend will be used to support the activities, including travel, of individuals selected as Innovation Advisors.

What does the total program cost?

The total program cost is \$5.9 million, drawn from funds provided to the CMS Innovation Center by the Affordable Care Act. Four million dollars will go toward the stipends of the Innovation Advisors, while \$1.9 million will go toward training and other operations of the program.

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