

*Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
Office of Health Care Quality*

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*Health Care Quality Account  
2015 Annual Report*



*Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor  
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor  
Van T. Mitchell, Secretary  
Patricia Tomsko Nay, M.D., Executive Director*

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## *Overview*

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Maryland's Health Care Quality Account (HCQA) was established in 2000 by the General Assembly. It is similar in purpose and scope to an account established previously by federal regulation that is used to improve the quality of care provided in nursing homes nationwide. The Maryland HCQA is funded by receipts of civil money penalties (CMP) imposed by the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) to nursing homes or assisted living facilities for noncompliance with regulations. It is comprised of the following three special fund accounts:

- (1) Nursing Homes Federal CMP Account: funds collected from nursing homes as a result of civil money penalties imposed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS);
- (2) Nursing Homes State CMP State Account: funds collected from nursing homes as a result of civil money penalties imposed by the Office of Health Care Quality; and
- (3) Assisted Living State CMP State Account: funds collected from assisted living providers as a result of civil money penalties imposed by the Office of Health Care Quality. This fund was created by the Maryland General Assembly during 2007.

Each of these three accounts is a non-lapsing special fund. Monies deposited in these accounts are allocated through grant awards in support of education, training and demonstration projects designed to improve the quality of care provided in Maryland's nursing homes or assisted living programs.

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## *Grants Awards Process*

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Applications for grant awards from the Health Care Quality Account are accepted throughout the year. Awarded grant amounts vary, and are contingent upon the availability of funds and the number of applications received, approved and funded.

At a minimum the submitted application must include the following information describing the proposed project:

- Title Page: Project title; Applicant organization's name & address; Project director's name & contact information
- Executive Summary: Project's purpose & scope, and summary of entire proposal
- Background and Significance: Impetus for project (i.e., why this project is necessary)

- **Project Plan:** Description of project-related goals and objectives; activities to be undertaken to accomplish goals & objectives; project timeline (i.e., nuts and bolts of how project will be implemented)
- **Consumer & Stakeholder Involvement:** Identification of key individual and organizational partners and how they will be engaged in project design & implementation
- **Expected Outcomes:** Identification of intended beneficiaries and outcomes; deliverables; and plan for sustainability
- **Progress & Outcomes Metrics:** How progress toward and achievement of expected outcomes will be assessed
- **Proposed Project Budget & Justification:** Amount of funding needed to accomplish stated goals and objectives; quantified itemization and narrative justification for major categories of anticipated expenditures
- **Assurance of Non-Supplantation:** Brief description of manner in which project will not re-define, displace or replace current responsibilities of any participating organization to meet existing Medicare or Medicaid requirements, or other statutory or regulatory requirements

Below is the link to the grant application and application guidance:

<http://dhmh.maryland.gov/ohcq/SitePages/Grants.aspx>

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### ***Required Reporting on Progress***

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Dependent upon the stated purpose and scope of the approved and funded project, one or more progress reports will be required in addition to a final report outlining key accomplishments, findings and recommendations for future investments in quality improvement.

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### ***Fund Balance and 2015 Awards***

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As of the end of State Fiscal Year 2014 the current assets balance available was \$376,625.56 in the Nursing Homes Federal CMP Account; \$255,535.86 in the Nursing Homes State CMP Account; and \$33,203.00 in the Assisted Living State CMP Account. The table below details the 11 grants that were distributed from these accounts, including the grantee, funding source, amount awarded, and purpose and scope of the project.

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Amount FY 2015</b>	<b>Purpose and Scope</b>
The Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association, Inc., Greater Maryland Chapter	Nursing Homes Federal CMP Account	\$126,105	To promote excellence in person-centered care provided in nursing homes through a multi-dimensional awareness campaign focused on the fundamental principles of culture change transformation.
The Health Facilities Association of Maryland	Nursing Homes Federal CMP Account	\$109,850	To deliver to diverse health care providers a wound care certification course that includes a comprehensive overview of the physiology of skin and underlying tissues, wound prevention, wound assessment and wound abatement and healing.
The Beacon Institute	Nursing Homes Federal CMP Account	\$69,200	To accelerate adoption and use of INTERACT by post-acute care facilities. INTERACT is a quality improvement program designed to enhance early identification, assessment, and documentation of changes in the health status of residents of skilled nursing facilities.
The University of Maryland School of Pharmacy	Nursing Homes And Assisted Living State CMP Accounts	\$101,729	To assess and improve the knowledge, skills and attitudes of surveyors of nursing homes and assisted living programs on the appropriate use of medications for residents with an advanced illness.
The Beacon Institute	Nursing Homes Federal CMP Account	\$122,600	To educate professional caregivers in the appropriate use of evidence-based tools to assess the cognitive status of residents of long-term care facilities.
The Mid-Atlantic Public Health Training Center (MAPHTC), The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health	Nursing Homes State CMP Account	\$119,949	To support the Office of Health Care Quality in reviewing and revising employee training, establishing annual training requirements, and revising training for new surveyors in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.
The Beacon Institute	Nursing	\$34,000	To design, implement and evaluate a

Grantee	Funding Source	Amount FY 2015	Purpose and Scope
	Homes State CMP Account		proactive communications and marketing plan to promote awareness, understanding and use of MOLST (Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatments) and to engage certified master MOLST trainers in this statewide campaign.
The Law & Health Care Program and The Maryland Healthcare Ethics Committee Network (MHECN), The University of Maryland Carey School of Law	Nursing Homes State CMP Account	\$29,812	To evaluate whether MOLST (Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatments) forms are being used correctly, and to assess the impact of the MOLST program to date on quality of care for Marylanders.
The Eastern Shore Area Health Education Center	Nursing Homes State CMP Account	\$5,500	To provide education in support of certified nursing assistants delivering direct care in medically underserved rural areas, with a focus on communication skills, responding to challenging behaviors, providing wound care, addressing signs of grief, and managing stress.
The Beacon Institute	Nursing Homes State CMP Account	\$8,250	To formulate and host a one-day educational program for geriatric nursing assistants that centers on observation and communications regarding changes in physical and cognitive status, understanding delirium superimposed on dementia, management of challenging behavior, safe transfers of physically dependent individuals, and grief work in long-term care settings.
The Health Care Management Program, Department of Inter-Professional Health Studies, College of Health Professions, Towson University	Nursing Homes and Assisted Living State CMP Accounts	\$17,755	To plan and orchestrate a conference for nursing home and assisted living administrators focused upon design and implementation of emergency preparedness plans.

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## *Applying for an HCQA Grant*

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Who is eligible to apply for a HCQA grant? The applicant organization must be qualified and capable of carrying out the intended project and proposed uses of requested funds. Funds may be granted to any entity permitted under State law, provided that the funds are used to protect or improve services for residents of nursing homes and or assisted living facilities. Such organizations may include but not be limited to consumer advocacy organizations, quality improvement organizations, industry trade associations, professional societies and networks, teams located at institutions of higher learning such as colleges and universities, teams based within governmental agencies or government-sponsored enterprises, and private contractors. Resident and family councils affiliated with long-term care facilities are also eligible to apply. For more information about how to apply for a HCQA grant, please click on:

### [The Grants Program FAQs](#)

OHCQ's mission is to protect the health and safety of Maryland's citizens and to ensure there is public confidence in the health care and community service delivery systems. Our vision is that all those receiving care in Maryland can trust that their health care facility or program is licensed and has met the regulatory standards for the services they offer. The HCQA grants are one manner in which OHCQ improves the quality of services delivered to the residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities throughout Maryland.

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## *Contact Information*

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[www.dhmf.maryland.gov/ohcq](http://www.dhmf.maryland.gov/ohcq)

