



**Office of Health Care Quality**

**Health Care Quality Accounts**

**FY 2020 Annual Report**

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*Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor*

*Robert Neall, Secretary*

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## **Overview**

The Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) is the agency within the Maryland Department of Health charged with monitoring the quality of care in Maryland's health care facilities and community-based programs. OHCQ's four main functions include:

1. **Licensure:** OHCQ issues licenses, authorizing the operation of a business in Maryland;
2. **Certification:** OHCQ recommends certification to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), authorizing participation in the Medicare and Medicaid programs;
3. **Surveys:** OHCQ conducts surveys to determine compliance with State and federal regulations, which establish minimum standards for the delivery of care; and
4. **Technical Assistance:** OHCQ provides technical assistance to applicants, licensees, consumers, and other stakeholders.

OHCQ's mission is to protect the health and safety of Marylanders and to ensure there is public confidence in the health care and community service delivery systems. The Health Care Quality Accounts (HCQA) Grants Program is one way that OHCQ improves the quality of care and services throughout the State. The funds collected from civil money penalties issued to nursing homes and assisted living facilities are used to support activities that improve the quality of life of individuals who reside in Maryland's nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

## **Health Care Quality Accounts Grants Program**

Maryland's Health Care Quality Account 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 receipt of civil money penalties (CMP) imposed by the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) on nursing homes or assisted living facilities for serious noncompliance with regulations. It is comprised of the following three special fund accounts:

1. **Federal Nursing Home (FNH) Account:** Funds collected from nursing homes from civil money penalties imposed by CMS;
2. **State Nursing Home (SNH) Account:** Funds collected from nursing homes from civil money penalties imposed by OHCQ; and

3. State Assisted Living (SAL) Account: Funds collected from assisted living providers from civil money penalties imposed by OHCQ. This fund was created by the Maryland General Assembly in 2006.

Each of these separate 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. A balance is maintained in these accounts in the event the funds are needed for any natural disasters, pandemics, or other deemed emergencies that affect residents of nursing homes or assisted living programs.

### **Grants Award Process**

Applications for grant awards from the HCQA are accepted throughout the year. Awarded grant amounts vary and are contingent upon the availability of funds. 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, and 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 and objectives, and project timeline (i.e., nuts and bolts of how project will be implemented);
- Consumer and Stakeholder Involvement: Identification of key individual and organizational partners and how they will be engaged in project design and implementation;
- Expected Outcomes: Identification of intended beneficiaries and outcomes, deliverables, and plan for sustainability;
- Progress and Outcomes Metrics: How progress toward and achievement of expected outcomes will be assessed;
- Proposed Project Budget and Justification: Amount of funding needed to accomplish stated goals and objectives, quantified itemization, and narrative justifying the major categories of anticipated expenditures; and
- Assurance of Non-Supplantation: Brief description of how the 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.

The HCQA Grant Committee reviews all complete grant proposals according to the established criteria. The committee includes the following individuals:

- Deputy Director for Long Term Care, OHCQ
- Deputy Director for Federal Programs, OHCQ
- Deputy Director for State Programs, OHCQ
- Chief Fiscal Officer, OHCQ
- Chief Nurse, OHCQ
- Assistant Inspector General, MDH, Office of the Inspector General
- Assistant Attorney General, OHCQ

Proposals for state funds are reviewed and determined by the committee. Proposals for federal funding must be submitted to CMS for review and approval. OHCQ cannot approve the use of the federal funds, nor can OHCQ advocate with CMS on behalf of grant applicants.

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 quality improvement projects.

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

<https://health.maryland.gov/ohcq/Pages/GrantsProgram.aspx>

### **Criteria for Applicants**

The applicant 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 improve the quality of care provided to residents of nursing homes or assisted living facilities. All requests should align with the priorities within the focus areas associated with quality of care associated with the residents.

Such organizations may include consumer advocacy organizations, quality improvement organizations, industry trade associations, professional societies, professional networks, teams from 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 and encouraged to apply.

For more information about how to apply for a HCQA grant, please click on:

<https://health.maryland.gov/ohcq/docs/Grants/HCQA%20FAQs%20For%20HCQA%20Website%20Revised%20By%20TN%20JP%204%202020%202015.pdf>

## **Available Funds**

As of the end of State Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020, the current assets balance available was \$9,657,974.58 in the Nursing Home Federal CMP Account; \$107,614.63 in the Nursing Home State CMP Account; and \$53,288.00 in the Assisted Living State CMP Account.

## **Administrative and Operating Costs**

In order to provide awareness of the HCQA grant program to stakeholders, grantees, and OHCQ staff through education, seminars and technical assistance, CMS awarded \$61,000 from the Federal Nursing Home account to OHCQ for personnel and operational costs.

## **Grants Awarded**

Table 1 lists the grants awarded in Fiscal Year 2020, including the grantee, funding source, amount awarded, and purpose and scope of the project including forwarded grantees from Fiscal Year 2019 that will end during or after Fiscal Year 2020.

In response to COVID-19, CMS approved funding for communicative devices in nursing homes. CMS developed a Communication Technology Application Template for nursing homes that allowed states to approve COVID-19 grant applications for the purpose of communication technology. CMS authorized OHCQ to approve nursing home requests of up to \$3,000 for communication technology for a limited time. Applications that included a request of greater than \$3,000 were forwarded to CMS for their review and determination. Note that this CMS authorization did not apply to any other type of federal grant applications. The use of tablets and other technology decreased social isolation by connecting nursing home residents to their family and friends during the COVID-19 pandemic. This technology also facilitated telehealth visits.

Table 2 lists the grants awarded in Fiscal Year 2020, including the grantee, funding source, amount awarded, and purpose and scope of the project specifically in response to COVID-19. While some applications were reviewed, processed, and approved during the fiscal year, they may not be included in this report if the invoice was processed after June 30, 2020.

## **Improving the Quality of Life**

The HCQA Grant Program funds projects that enhance the quality of life of the residents of Maryland's nursing homes and assisted living facilities. These projects enhance a facility's ability to care for these individuals and often provide additional staff training and education. Thus, the benefits of the projects are seen long after the project is completed.

**Table 1: FY 20 Health Care Quality Account Grant Awards**

Grantee	Funding Source	Amount Awarded	Purpose and Scope
Second Wind Dream	Federal NH	\$1,845.00	Provide Virtual Dementia Tour training program for front line nursing staff in skilled nursing. The program offers a hands-on experiential training program designed to help caregivers understand the physical and mental challenges of those suffering from Alzheimer's disease and dementia.
Pioneer Network in Culture Change	Federal NH	\$72,703.14	Provide a specialized training program for care of individuals with brain injury in Maryland nursing homes. The program will address brain injury related needs and service gaps facing the nursing and direct care staff of Maryland nursing homes.
Community Health Education and Research Corporation	Federal NH	\$8,966.50	Provide mental health first aid training to staff and care providers in Prince Georges and Montgomery County nursing homes to improve quality of care and health of consumers and residents.
Vohra Post-Acute Care Physicians of the East, PA	Federal NH	\$21,425.00	Provide scholarships in order to train and certify 150 eligible nurses within the approximately 230 skilled nursing homes in Maryland.
Mental Health Association of Maryland	Federal NH	\$67,892.49	Provide a live training program designed to improve the lives of older adults living in nursing homes. The training emphasizes hands-on skills development and utilizes interactive exercises, case studies, and role playing exercises.

**Table 2: FY 20 Health Care Quality Account Grant Awards  
COVID-19 Communicative Technology**

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>	<b>Purpose and Scope</b>
Citizens Care & Rehabilitation Center of Frederick	Federal NH	\$2,895.92	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits
Sterling Care South Mountain	Federal NH	\$3,000.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits
Sterling Care Frostburg	Federal NH	\$3,000.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits
Sterling Care Riverside	Federal NH	\$3,000.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits
Ridgeway Manor, Inc.	Federal NH	2,895.92	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits
Wicomico Nursing Home	Federal NH	\$2,256.52	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits
Bridgepark Operations, LLC	Federal NH	\$499.90	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits
Pikesville Operations, LLC	Federal NH	\$1,882.39	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits
Oakview Operations, LLC	Federal NH	\$755.88	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits
Arlington West Care Center Opco, LLC	Federal NH	\$1,206.96	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits
Snow Hill Nursing and Rehabilitation	Federal NH	\$2,868.02	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits
Marquis Health Services, LLC	Federal NH	\$8,640.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits
St. Elizabeth Rehabilitation and Nursing Center	Federal NH	\$2,924.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits
Bel Pre Healthcare Center	Federal NH	\$2,800.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits
Post Acute Operator, LLC	Federal NH	\$2,783.29	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits
Marquis Health Services, LLC	Federal NH	\$2,880.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits
Broadmead, Inc.	Federal NH	\$3,000.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>	<b>Purpose and Scope</b>
Sava Senior Car Administrative Services, LLC	Federal NH	\$33,000.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits
Alice Operator, LLC	Federal NH	\$1,816.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits
Vindobona Nursing and Rehabilitation Center	Federal NH	\$2,997.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits
Cherry Lane Operating Group, LLC	Federal NH	\$2,368.92	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits
Maryland Health Services	Federal NH	\$11,085.24	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits
King David at Autumn Lake, LLC	Federal NH	\$2,420.18	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits
The Lions Center for Rehab & Extended Care	Federal NH	2,804.76	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits
Augsburg Lutheran Home of Maryland, Inc.	Federal NH	\$3,042.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits
The Village at Rockville	Federal NH	\$3,042.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits
Oak Crest Village	Federal NH	\$2, 940.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits
Riderwood Village	Federal NH	\$2, 940.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits
Riverview Operator, LLC	Federal NH	\$2, 372.57	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits
Charlestown Community	Federal NH	\$2,940.00	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits
Solomons Nursing Center	Federal NH	\$1,253.84	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits
Future Care Health and Management	Federal NH	\$48,055.20	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits
Resorts at Chester River Manor	Federal NH	\$3,010.95	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits
Peak Healthcare, LLC	Federal NH	\$17,077.90	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits
Cadia Healthcare Maryland	Federal NH	\$8,299.80	To provide virtual social and telehealth visits



## **Contact Information**

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