



## State Innovation Model (SIM)

July 31, 2015

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### Minnesota Accountable Health Model e-Health Grant Program

**Minnesota's State Innovation Model initiative awarded over \$1 million in grants to help four community collaboratives implement and use health information exchange to improve care coordination and overall health of members.** These grants will enable providers across different health care settings to have access to the information they need to coordinate care and keep people healthy and out of the hospital.

These awards were made possible through the [Minnesota Accountable Health Model](#) – SIM Minnesota. These projects are part of a \$45 million State Innovation Model (SIM) cooperative agreement, awarded to the Minnesota Departments of Health and Human Services in 2013 by The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI). The goal of this initiative is to help implement the Minnesota Accountable Health Model.

The selected community collaboratives received implementation grants ranging from \$201,409 to \$348,169. The grants are designed to help care team members from clinical, community, and social service settings use health information exchange and technology to do a better job of meeting the health needs of patients and community members.

**More than 97 percent of Minnesota's hospitals and clinics, almost 70 percent of Minnesota's nursing homes and all Minnesota hospitals** are already using electronic health records and health information exchange and technologies to improve care. These grants are focused on furthering the benefits of e-health by connecting team members from different settings. Collaboratives needed to include at least two partners from local public health departments, long-term and post-acute care, behavioral health and social services. The collaboratives also needed at least one organization participating in an accountable care organization (ACO), such as Minnesota's **Integrated Health Partnerships (IHP)**, or similar health care payment model involving alternatives to fee-for-service, such as shared risk, shared savings, or total cost of care. A key goal of SIM Minnesota is to test whether ACO payment arrangements improve care and reduce costs.

The Minnesota Accountable Health Model has had two rounds of grant funding to support the secure exchange of medical or health-related information. The following organizations were awarded funding for round two. Federal funds account for 100 percent of the grant amounts listed below. However, the recipients of the grants are required to provide matching funds of 20 percent.

- Integrity Health Network (Duluth) - \$ 222,748
- Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (St. Paul) - \$ 348,169
- Winona Health (Winona) - \$ 245,000
- Beltrami Area Service Collaborative-PACT (Bemidji) - \$ 201,409

The collaboratives will primarily use the funds to incorporate health information exchange into their communities, **establish a connection with one of Minnesota's State-Certified HIE Service Providers**, and hire staff dedicated to figuring out how partners can exchange medical and health information. The collaboratives can also use funds for activities including improving hand offs and transitions between settings, creating patient consent processes, and using public health data to improve outcomes.

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## Minnesota awards two contracts to cultivate stories about health innovation

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) awarded two contracts totaling \$50,000 to fund a Storytelling Engagement Project. The \$25,000 contracts were awarded to Community Blueprint and the DIAL Group to develop and facilitate processes to collect, produce, and share stories of health integration and innovation. This storytelling engagement project will also build the narrative capacity of providers, partners, and communities. State staff, contractors, and grantees may use stories to teach and share practices, demonstrate their values in action, or build momentum around ideas to build a community of interest in health integration and innovation. Stories are also a way to expand our stakeholders and audience, generating communities of interest and self-organizing connections.

With guidance from state staff, the vendor(s) shall:

- Implement a facilitated training and technical assistance process to State Innovation Model (SIM) stakeholders on developing compelling stories.
- Provide accessible means to identify, collect and select stories from a variety of stakeholders across the state.
- Engage diverse individuals and community-based organizations to ensure consumer perspectives are emphasized throughout the process and final stories.
- Produce a series of stories that build a business case for innovative practices, programs, and partnerships that address the Triple Aim.

**These awards were made possible through Minnesota's \$45 million State Innovation Model (SIM) testing grant.** MDH and the Department of Human Services (DHS) jointly received this federal grant in 2013 and are using the funds to help implement the [Minnesota Accountable Health Model](#). The model helps providers and communities work together to reduce costs and create healthier futures for Minnesotans. It supports community and provider partnerships, team-based models of care, care coordination, Accountable Care Organizations, payment reform, and health information technology investments.

About the contractors

[The DIAL Group](#) was formed to bring together creative professionals and artists, into public initiatives and campaigns, to improve the usefulness of public outreach, education and engagement. Since 2010, the DIAL Group has provided media, communications, capacity development, research and other services throughout Minnesota, particularly in the Twin Cities.

[Community Blueprint](#) is a cause marketing agency with years of experience telling authentic and engaging stories **through multimedia formats such as video, web, and print. They've traveled the state and country working with people to create campaigns and spread messages that educate, engage, and inspire.** Over the years, they have worked with government agencies, schools, and public service organizations to promote a variety of public health and social change initiatives.

For more information about the Storytelling Engagement Project, email Sida Ly-Xiong, SIM Community Engagement Coordinator, at [sida.ly-xiong@state.mn.us](mailto:sida.ly-xiong@state.mn.us).

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## Novel MDH study yields first statewide estimate of potentially preventable health care events

For the first time, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has analyzed the **state's emergency department** visits, hospital admissions and hospital readmissions and found that over the course of a year nearly 1.3 million of those patient visits costing nearly \$2 billion were potentially preventable.

[Full article](#)

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## Mental health center adds primary care to become health care home

Minnesota has 382 medical clinics that are certified as health care homes, but Zumbro Valley Health Center is the **state's first community mental health center to become a health care home.** MDH certified Zumbro Valley Health Center as a health care home in May, after it completed required certification steps such as adding primary care services. The organization is the first mental health center in Minnesota to achieve this designation.

[Full article](#)

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## Minnesota Department of Health contracts with vendors to develop toolkits for employers interested in hiring Community Health Workers and Community Paramedics

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) recently executed two contracts totaling \$198,520 to develop toolkits for employers interested in hiring community health workers (CHWs) and community paramedics.

The toolkits will serve as “how-to” guides for employers interested in hiring an emerging professional. Toolkits may include information about:

- Training standards,
- scope of practice,
- supervision options,
- best practices for onboarding and integrating in a team-based environment,
- covered services, billing, and reimbursement,
- return on investment,
- sustainability planning,
- existing models,
- forms, templates, and protocols to be used by the emerging professional, and
- success stories and lessons learned.

When complete, the Toolkits will be posted online with workforce related data and other resources. Further information and updates can be found on the Emerging Professions page of the MDH website.

WellShare International, a non-profit organization based in Minneapolis with over 30 years of experience recruiting, training, and employing over 8,000 community health workers (CHWs) in low resource settings, was awarded a \$98,845 Community Health Worker Toolkit Contract. WellShare International will partner with the Minnesota Community Health Worker Alliance in developing the toolkit.

The Paramedic Foundation, a non-profit organization based in St. Cloud whose members are leaders in community paramedicine worldwide, was awarded a \$99,675 contract to develop a Community Paramedic Toolkit.

**These awards were made possible through Minnesota’s \$45 million State Innovation Model (SIM) testing grant.** MDH and the Department of Human Services (DHS) jointly received this federal grant in 2013 and are using the funds to help implement the [Minnesota Accountable Health Model](#). The model helps providers and communities work together to reduce costs and create healthier futures for Minnesotans. It supports community and provider partnerships, team-based models of care, care coordination, Accountable Care Organizations, payment reform, and health information technology investments.

For more information about the Emerging Professions Integration Grant Program and the State Innovations Model testing grant please visit the Office of Rural Health and Primary Care (ORHPC) website or contact Kay Herzfeld, Emerging Professions Coordinator at (651) 201-3846.

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## Minnesota Awards \$4 million for Data Analytics to Integrated Health Partnership Providers

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is awarding over \$4 million in grants to 11 organizations that are a **part of Minnesota’s Integrated Health Partnership (IHP) demonstration to implement or expand data analytic projects or tools.** The intent of these grants is to support the development of data analytic infrastructure that enables these providers to continue innovative and cost effective service delivery changes for Minnesotans. The IHP data analytic grants complement other investments in data analytics made through SIM by building provider system capacity and informing best practices related to use of data by providers participating in accountable care models.

The proposed project goals range widely from implementation of and training for new informatics analysts, to integrating IHP claims data into existing clinical data repositories, evaluating the integration of social determinants into care coordination and risk stratification algorithms, to establishing ADT (admission, discharge, and transfer) alerts and systems. The scope of the projects is both deep and broad, and each implementing organization will further the Minnesota Accountable Health Model.

The grants, ranging from \$100,000 to \$500,000, were awarded to:

- Allina Health / Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute
- **Children’s Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota**
- Essentia Health
- FQHC Urban Health Network (FUHN)
- Hennepin County Medical Center
- Lakewood Health System
- Mankato Clinic
- North Memorial Health Care
- Southern Prairie Community Care
- Wilderness Health

- Winona Health

Currently, these 11 IHP organizations serve Minnesota Health Care Program members in both rural and metro areas. In most cases, their analytic projects will impact and benefit populations the organizations serve beyond their IHP attributed members.

**Minnesota's \$45 million State Innovation Model (SIM) grant makes these Data Analytic grants possible.** The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) awarded Minnesota a State Innovation Model (SIM) testing grant to use across a three-year period ending in December 2016. As a joint effort between the Department of Health (MDH) and the Department of Human Services (DHS) with support from Governor Mark Dayton's office, Minnesota is using the grant money to test new ways of delivering and paying for health care using the [Minnesota Accountable Health Model](#) framework. The goal of this model is to improve health in communities, provide better care and lower health care costs.

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## Minnesota Accountable Health Model Updates

Visit the [Minnesota Accountable Health Model](#) website for frequent updates, including a list of upcoming [RFP opportunities](#) and a [map of awardees to date](#).



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