

Promoting a Partnership for Improvement

The mission of Group Health Cooperative of Eau Claire is to optimize the healthcare of our members through the pooling of health-related resources.

It is widely recognized by healthcare professionals that opportunity for improvement exists everywhere in healthcare. By tapping into the expertise of the NIHP, Group Health Cooperative will be able to maximize the reach of its grant funding.

According to the Institute of Medicine, the cause of many healthcare-related problems can be attributed to the way in which medical practices are organized. Often times, many well-trained and well-intentioned providers are restricted from providing the best care possible because of the structure of their practices.

Through the Inspiring Healthcare Innovation Grant, Group Health Cooperative will promote improvement in the healthcare industry by awarding grants to providers and organizations that offer a more efficient and effective approach to healthcare practices.



For more information on Group Health Cooperative of Eau Claire and the Inspiring Healthcare Innovation Grant, please visit www.group-health.com.



Our Mission is to Innovate.



Who we are



Group Health Cooperative of Eau Claire

is a health plan that is deeply invested in the people of Eau Claire and western Wisconsin. As a nonprofit organization, Group Health Cooperative is able to provide quality healthcare coverage with a member-centered focus. In addition, since the organization is a cooperative, every member has a voice in making their care the best it can be.

The National Institute of Health Policy (NIHP)

is a nonprofit, membership organization made up of healthcare leaders throughout the Upper Midwest. Through leadership and vision, the NIHP provides a neutral forum for healthcare leaders, frontline staff and influential policy makers to work together to develop real-world, common-ground solutions that foster the positive transformation of the health system.

Grant Criteria

Through the Inspiring Healthcare Innovation Grant, Group Health Cooperative intends to promote widely recognized goals for healthcare improvement. Grant requests will be prioritized according to success in addressing the following:

- ① Proposals that utilize Six Sigma and/or Lean methodology and address formal process improvement.
- ② Care delivery that is consistent with the Institute of Medicine's six goals described in *Crossing the Quality Chasm: A New Health System for the 21st Century*.

SAFE

Avoiding injuries to patients from the care that is intended to help them.

EFFECTIVE

Providing services based on scientific knowledge to all who could benefit and refraining from providing services to those not likely to benefit.

PATIENT-CENTERED

Providing care that is respectful and responsive to individual patient preferences, needs and values and ensuring that patients' values guide all clinical decisions.

TIMELY

Reducing waits and sometimes harmful delays for both those who receive and those who give care.

EFFICIENT

Avoiding waste, including waste of equipment, supplies, ideas and energy.

EQUITABLE

Providing care that does not vary in quality because of personal characteristics such as gender, ethnicity, geographic location and socioeconomic status.

- ③ Health reform that is consistent with the NIHP's four keys to system reform described in *The Four Keys to Health Reform: A Roadmap for Policy Action*.

THE GREATER USE OF EVIDENCE-BASED MEDICINE (EBM).

The result of the EBM movement is an array of care guidelines, care patterns and new shared decision-making tools. EBM holds the promise to substantially improve health, medicine and long-term care.

THE APPLICATION OF SIMILAR PRACTICES FOR EVIDENCE-BASED OPERATIONS (EBO).

Significant opportunities for operational improvement exist for healthcare delivery organizations. Practitioners of EBO use the standard quality improvement tools of Deming, Juran and Six Sigma.

NEW METHODS TO LOWER FINANCING AND TRANSACTION COSTS, WHILE MAINTAINING DIVERSE OPTIONS.

Transaction costs absorb valuable healthcare dollars that might be better used to deliver care.

A REDEFINED AND MORE ACTIVE ROLE FOR THE CONSUMER.

Consumers have two roles to consider: health education and the effective use of the healthcare service delivery system.

Eligibility

The competition is open to all providers and organizations that participate in the Group Health Cooperative network.

Awards

A total of up to \$500,000 in grant support will be awarded in 2006. A panel of independent judges will decide which applications to fund based on the stated criteria.

Key Dates

Monday, April 24, 2006
Business Leaders Luncheon
and Program Kickoff

Monday, June 5, 2006
Grant Proposals Due