Request for Proposal

2020 Georgia Hypertension Control Champions

Cardiovascular Health Program
Chronic Disease Prevention Section
Georgia Department of Public Health
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Activity
Georgia Hypertension Control Champions

Purpose:
The DPH Hypertension Control Champions program identifies practices, clinicians, and health systems that have worked with their patients to achieve hypertension control rates between 65% to 80% through innovations in health information technology and electronic health records, patient communication, and team-based care approaches. Their success stories and lessons learned can help other practices and systems work with patients to achieve successful blood pressure control.

Summary:
Practices, clinicians and health systems in Georgia will be invited to apply to become a Champion. Applicants will complete the application that’s provided via email.

Up to ten Hypertension Control Champions will be selected and awarded between $2,500 to $15,000 to facilitate the implementation of additional innovations to lead to further improvements in hypertension control rates. The champions and their success stories will be profiled in the Georgia Department of Public Health’s newsletter, The PH Insider.

A one-page announcement will be distributed to partners to publicize.

Benefits to the DPH Cardiovascular Health Program:
Uncontrolled hypertension is a major risk factor for heart disease, the No. 1 killer of men and women in Georgia. Through funding from a CDC Cooperative Agreement, DPH is tasked with collaborating with partners to identify and recognize medical practices and health systems that have achieved exceptional control rates for hypertension. Their tools and approaches will be shared statewide, to assist other practices and health systems in achieving successful blood pressure control.

Who is eligible:
The 2020 Georgia Hypertension Control Champions are intended to recognize public and private clinicians, practices, and systems that are successful in working with their patients to achieve exemplary hypertension control rates, improve understanding of successful implementation strategies at the health system level, and encourage statewide improvement in hypertension control.
Eligibility:
The Georgia Hypertension Control Champions is open to public and private individual clinicians, practices, and health systems providing health care services to patients in Georgia. To be eligible to be recognized as a Georgia Hypertension Control Champion the applicant must:

1. Be a Georgia licensed clinician, practicing in any Georgia setting, who provides continuing care for adult patients with hypertension.
2. Or be a Georgia incorporated clinical practice, defined as any practice with two or more Georgia licensed clinicians who by formal arrangement share responsibility for a common panel of patients, practice at the same physical location or street address, and provide continuing medical care for adult patients with hypertension.
3. Or be a health system, incorporated in and maintaining a primary place of business in Georgia that provides continuing medical care for adult patients with hypertension.
4. In the case of a private entity, the private entity shall be incorporated in and maintain a primary place of business in Georgia.

In addition, the clinician, practice, or health system:
1. Must treat all adult patients with hypertension in the practice seeking care, not a select subgroup of patients.
2. Must have completed the application form in its entirety.
3. Must have a data management system (electronic or paper).
4. Must have a hypertension control rate between 65% to 80% during the 12-month reporting period among the practice’s hypertensive patient population.
5. Must agree to:
   a. Be recognized if selected and agree to participate in an interview to develop a success story that describes the systems and processes that support hypertension control among patients. Strategies used by Champions that support hypertension control may be written into a success story.
   b. Provide information through a 60 minute, or other similar, interview about their clinical strategies and protocol implementation for the development of a success story document.
6. Georgia Department of Public Health employees are not eligible to apply, unless it is on behalf of a Public Health District clinic.

Award Information:
Award Maximum: $2,500 to $15,000
Number of Awards: Up to 10 Applications
Release Date: December 13, 2019
Application Due Date: January 13, 2020
Anticipated Award Date: January 27, 2020
Performance Period: January 27, 2020 – June 29, 2020

Rules
The Hypertension Control Champions recognizes clinicians, practices and health systems that achieve notable hypertension control rates across their adult patient population, not just for select patients. Applicants submitting research studies, pilot studies, or entries that limit hypertension control data submitted to a subset
of the provider or health system population such as treatment cohorts, patients of a specific age range, or patients enrolled in limited quality improvement projects are not eligible.

**General Conditions**

Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) reserves the right to cancel, suspend, and/or modify any part of it, for any reason, at DPH’s sole discretion. If canceled, suspended, and/or modified, DPH will inform the public through email.

Participation in this program constitutes an applicant’s full and unconditional agreement to abide by the Program’s Official Rules.

Participants must complete the application form that is attached in the email sent to you or the online form. The application form is a combination of short answer responses and checkbox responses.

Application information includes:

1. The size of the applicant’s adult patient population defined as the number of adult patients (age 18 years and older) served during the reporting year regardless of diagnosis, a summary of known patient demographics (e.g., age distribution), and any noteworthy patient population characteristics. The reporting year (12-months) should reflect the most currently available data with an end date no earlier than October 31, 2019.

2. The percent of the applicant’s adult patient population identified above that were seen during the reporting year and had a hypertension diagnosis (i.e., hypertension prevalence). The hypertension control rate should be for the provider’s or health system’s entire adult hypertensive patient population ages 18-85, not limited to a sample. The provider’s or health system’s hypertensive population age 18–85 should include only patients in primary care or in cardiology care in the case of a cardiology clinic. Patients seen only in dental care or behavioral health care should not be included. Examples of ineligible data submissions include hypertension control rates that are limited to treatment cohorts from research studies or pilot studies, patients limited to a specific age range (such as 18-35), or patients enrolled in limited scale quality improvement projects.

3. The applicant’s current hypertension control rate among their hypertensive population identified above during the reporting year. In determining the hypertension control rate, DPH defines “hypertension control” for the program as a blood pressure reading < 140 mmHg systolic and < 90 mmHg diastolic among adult hypertensive patients ages 18-85.

4. A description of clinic systems or processes that support hypertension control. Completion of a checklist of sustainable clinic systems or processes that support hypertension control. These may include provider or patient incentives, dashboards, staffing characteristics, electronic record-keeping systems, reminder or alert systems, clinician reporting, service modifications, etc. Checkbox responses may be supplemented by a short answer response. Supporting information about clinic systems is encouraged but not required.

5. The applicant must agree to:
   a. Participate in a 1-hour interview or similar activity to gather information about their hypertension control strategies, and work with DPH on the review of material to share clinical strategies. Strategies used by Champions that support hypertension control may be written into a success story.

Applicants not agreeing to each of these items on the application form will be excluded from participating.
The estimated burden for completing the application form is 30 minutes.

**Award**

Up to 10 Champions will be awarded. Champions will receive local and statewide recognition. An award between $2,500 to $15,000 will be allocated to each Hypertension Control Champion to facilitate the implementation of additional innovations to lead to further improvements in hypertension control rates.

**Scope of Work**

Once awarded, each selected champion will complete the following scope of work:

1. Complete the Georgia Health Systems Assessment tool.
2. Participate in a focus group to share information and clinical strategies on hypertension management, team-based care, blood pressure self-monitoring, and use of clinical protocols and health information technology to improve hypertension control.
3. Review document produced by DPH that highlights success stories and clinical strategies shared by Hypertension Control Champions prior to dissemination.
4. Participate on the Georgia Cardiovascular Health Collaborative for one year.
5. Implement additional innovations to lead to further improvements in hypertension control rates.

**Selecting the Champions**

A panel of three individuals, consisting of DPH staff, will review the applications to select Champions. Final selection of Champions will be based on the consideration of all the information from the application form.

The application will be scored based on hypertension control rates and the degree to which the patient population’s characteristics might present significant challenges in attaining hypertension control (up to 5% of score). Judges will confirm that there are no conflicts of interest with any applicants being considered as a Champion.

Some Champions will participate in a post telephone interview. The interview will include questions about the strategies employed by the individual or organization to achieve high rates of hypertension control, including barriers and facilitators for those strategies. The interview will focus on systems and processes and should not require preparation time by the Champion. The estimated time for the interview is one hour, which includes time to review the interview protocol with the interviewer, respond to the interview questions, and review a summary of data about the Champion’s practices. The summary may be written as a success story.

Additional information related to the application and/or technical assistance regarding this request for application may be obtained by contacting:

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