

Texas Hypertension Control Learning Collaborative Call for Applications

Overview

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and the American Heart Association are inviting primary care clinics in Texas to participate in the Texas Hypertension Control Learning Collaborative. Up to 30 primary care practices or providers will have the opportunity to access expert-led, on-demand webinars on how to integrate self-measured blood pressure (SMBP) monitoring into their policies and procedures. SMBP monitoring is the regular measurement of blood pressure by the patient outside of the clinical setting and is an evidence-based approach that can improve hypertension control when tied to clinical support.¹

The selected primary care clinics are expected to access on-demand webinars and will commit to adopting or enhancing SMBP policies and protocols. The webinars will cover evidence-based strategies for developing and implementing SMBP policies and protocols in primary care settings, including sample policies, workflows, and billing. Participants will be required to submit an interim progress report and new or revised SMBP policy by the end of the project period.

Eligibility

- Must be a primary care practice or provider.
- Must have received "Participation Status" in [Target: BP™](#) in 2020 **or** must commit to enrolling in Target: BP™.
- Must **not** currently receive technical assistance from the University of Texas Health Science Center (UTHSC) at Houston or UTHSC Tyler through cooperative agreements with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): CDC-RFA-DP18-1815 or CDC-RFA-DP18-1817.
- Must **not** currently receive funding under the FY 2021 National Hypertension Control Initiative Supplemental Funding for Health Centers (NHCI-HC) awarded by the US Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration and the Office of Minority Health.

Award Information

- **Number of awards:** Up to 30*
- **Award amount:** \$3,500⁺

Timeline

- **Deadline for submission:** Ongoing through December 10, 2021
- **Award announcement:** Up to four weeks after receiving applications
- **Performance period:** Four months

Project Activities

- On-demand webinars on evidence-based strategies for developing and implementing SMBP policies and protocols in primary care settings.

¹Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Self-Measured Blood Pressure Monitoring: Actions Steps for Clinicians*. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services; 2014.

*Only one award per location or practice.

⁺ Funds cannot be used to purchase blood pressure cuffs. Funds will be awarded based on completion of two deliverables: Progress Report and updated SMBP Policy.

- Support will be provided to develop or enhance SMBP policies and procedures through technical assistance and Target: BP™ resources.

Application Instructions

Interested primary care practices should complete the Texas Hypertension Control Learning Collaborative Application Form. The form is separated into four different sections: (1) Practice Information; (2) Patient Demographics; (3) Current Funding and Assistance; and (4) Narrative. All fields are required. All applications will be initially reviewed for eligibility and completeness. Incomplete applications will not be scored. A review panel of DSHS staff will evaluate the Narrative section of complete, eligible applications in accordance with the criteria below:

Statement of Need (Maximum Points: 15)

- Describe your interest in participating in the learning collaborative and the potential impact it will have on your patient population. Include the number of patients seen in one calendar year and how many have hypertension.
- Letter of commitment from executive leadership must be attached.

Organizational Capacity and Commitment (Maximum Points: 60)

- Describe leadership support and sufficient staffing to: (1) participate in three webinars; (2) develop or enhance SMBP policies and procedures; (3) submit the required deliverables – an interim progress report and updated SMBP policy. Include key staff who will participate in the webinars.
- Describe capacity to collect, report, and use electronic medical record data for the purposes of quality improvement. Include prior experience with collecting aggregate data for your entire patient population and using data to demonstrate impact.
- Describe any partnerships with public health or community-based organizations your practice has or is currently engaged in.

Target Populations (Maximum Points: 25)

- Describe health disparities seen among your patient population, particularly groups that are disproportionately affected by hypertension. Examples: Age, sex, insurance status, or race or ethnicity.
- Describe steps your practice is taking or plans to take to address disparities in hypertension among your patients.

Submission Checklist

All applications must meet the following requirements:

1. Responded to all application fields
2. Submitted in Portable Document Format (PDF)
3. Attached letter of commitment from executive leadership
4. Submitted to DSHS Heart Disease and Stroke Program at cardio@dshs.texas.gov.