

10 Things You Need to Know About NH's "Building Capacity for Transformation" Waiver

On January 5, 2016 CMS approved for New Hampshire a Section 1115(a) Medicaid waiver, known as a Delivery System Reform Incentive Program (DSRIP) or "Building Capacity for Transformation" Waiver. This waiver will allow the State to invest \$150 million over five years to transform the State's behavioral health delivery system to help improve care and slow long-term growth in health care costs.

This financial incentive program will promote the innovative, sustainable, and systemic changes New Hampshire needs to help providers work with patients to receive better care for years to come. Here are the top 10 things you need to know:

1. The goal is to better support people on Medicaid by transforming the behavioral health care system by building capacity, integrating care and smoothing transitions in care.
2. The State has agreed to invest as much as \$30 million per year over 5 years, through innovative delivery system reform, to avoid costly hospital use by curbing readmissions and reducing inpatient admissions and emergency department use that could have been avoided if the patient had received proper integrated care services in their home and community. The State also hopes that building capacity to deliver behavioral health care and improving integration of care to help identify health care needs early will further address the opioid crisis in the state.
3. At the end of 5 years, the State must demonstrate payment reforms that can be sustained.
4. The Department will distribute incentive funds to Integrated Delivery Networks (IDNs) which are consortia of a wide variety of providers who agree to work in collaboration to achieve predefined results in system transformation, clinical management, and population health.
5. The State is proposing seven (7) IDN regions statewide. Non-binding letters of Intent (LOIs) from IDN Administrative Leads are requested by April 4, 2016. IDN applications are due May 31, 2016. IDN applications will be approved by June 30, 2016. The state will then begin distributing Capacity Building and Design Funds to approved IDNs.
6. An Independent Assessor hired by the Department will score and recommend approval of IDN applications per set criteria approved by CMS.
7. IDNs are required to implement six (6) projects from a 3-part menu. Each IDN is mandated to implement a healthcare work force capacity and health information technology development project. Each IDN must also deliver a core competency project that aligns medical, behavioral, and social services in an integrated model. Each IDN can then select three community-specific projects from a project menu approved by CMS.
8. Project Plan applications will be evaluated by an Independent Assessor using approved scoring elements per set criteria approved by CMS.
9. Funding payments made to each IDN are contingent on meeting program metrics at semi-annual intervals to show progress over the 5-year timeline. On September 1, 2016, project plan applications from approved IDNs are due. The state is targeting November, 2016 to announce approved project plans and the process for distributing subsequent payments to IDNs.
10. All IDNs and projects will get support through a Learning Collaborative. The Department will hire an entity to provide support and oversight for this effort, including providing technical assistance to IDNs and assisting with project specific support.

To learn more about this waiver program, including background, objectives, and ways to get involved, please visit the Department web site at <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov>. Click on *1115 Transformation Waiver* under Quick Links on the right hand navigation bar.