



# Essential Community Provider Provisions of the ACA

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## **Disclosures**

Presenter(s) has no financial interest to disclose.

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## **Learning Objectives**

At the conclusion of this activity, the participant will be able to:

- 1. Define Essential Community Provider Categories and provider types and understand the implications of the requirements to Ryan White programs.
- 2. Discuss a collaborative, multi-Ryan White grantee approach to supporting inclusion of Ryan White clinics as Essential Community Providers in Marketplace Insurance Plans.
- 3. Identify learning lessons and best practices for addressing ECP issues.





## **Obtaining CME/CE Credit**

If you would like to receive continuing education credit for this activity, please visit:

http://ryanwhite.cds.pesgce.com



## What Is an ECP?

Essential Community Providers are safety net providers:

"that serve predominantly low-income, medically underserved individuals."

Specifically this includes providers described in section 340B of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act and the Social Security Act.

Source: Definition of Essential Community Providers (ECPs) in Marketplaces. Kaiser Family Foundation. http://kff.org/other/state-indicator/definition-of-essential-community-providers-ecps-in-marketplaces/



#### **ECP Categories and ECP Provider Types**

**FQHC** 

Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) and FQHC "Look-Alike" Clinics, Outpatient health programs/facilities operated by Indian tribes, tribal organizations, programs operated by Urban Indian Organizations

Indian Health Provider

Indian Health Service (IHS providers), Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, and urban Indian Organizations

**RWHAP** 

Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) Providers

Hospital

Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) and DSH-eligible Hospitals, Children's Hospitals, Rural Referral Centers, Sole Community Hospitals, Free-standing Cancer Centers, Critical Access Hospitals

Family Planning Clinic

Title X Family Planning Clinics and Title X "Look-Alike" Family Planning Clinics

Other

STD Clinics, TB Clinics, Hemophilia Treatment Centers, Black Lung Clinics, and other entities that serve predominantly lowincome, medically underserved individuals.

Source: February 20, 2015. FINAL 2016 Letter to Tssuers in the Federally-facilitated Marketplaces. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. <a href="https://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Resources/Regulations-and-Guidance/Downloads/2016-Letter-to-Issuers-2-20-2015-R.pdf">https://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Resources/Regulations-and-Guidance/Downloads/2016-Letter-to-Issuers-2-20-2015-R.pdf</a>



## Qualified Health Plan (QHP) Issuer Obligations (for FFM states)

Issuers must demonstrate in their QHP Applications that they:

- Contract with at least 30 percent of available ECPs in each plan's service area to participate in the plan's provider network;
- Offer contracts in good faith to all available Indian health care providers in the service area; and
- Offer contracts in good faith to at least one ECP in each ECP category in each county in the service area, where an ECP in that category is available and provides medical or dental services that are covered by the issuer plan type.

Source: Chapter 7: Instructions for the Essential Community Providers Application Section, 2016 QHP Application Instructions. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. http://cms.hhs.gov/CCIIO/Programs-and-Initiatives/Files/Downloads/Chapter 07 ECP Instructions Ver1 04162014.pdf\



## "Contracts in good faith"

"To be offered in good faith, a contract should offer terms that a willing, similarly-situated, non-ECP provider would accept or has accepted. CMS will expect issuers to be able to provide verification of such offers if CMS requests to verify compliance with the policy."



Source: Chapter 7: Instructions for the Essential Community Providers Application Section, 2016 QHP Application Instructions. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

http://cms.hhs.gov/CCIIO/Programs-and-Initiatives/Files/Downloads/Chapter 07 ECP Instructions Ver1 04162014.pdf\



## How can I find out if I have been included as an ECP?

- Contact the contract department within your organization.
- Review the FINAL non-exhaustive HHS list of ECPs PY 2017 published by CMS.
- Visit ww.Healthcare.gov or use the Enroll America's Get Covered Plan Explorer (www.enrollamerica.org) to search for Qualified Health Plans by provider.



#### Step one: The HHS Non Exhaustive ECP List



#### The list includes:

- Provider name
- ECP category (e.g., Ryan White, STD clinic)
- Address
- Number of medical and dental FTEs



## Step Two: QHPs use the ECP list to apply to be certified

Template that QHPs Use to Apply to CMS for Certification

1	Clear All	Show Select	ed ECPs Insert Selected ECP			
2	Organization Name	National Provider Identifier	ECP Category (General ECP Standard Issuers Only)	Number of authorized MDs, DOs, PAs, and NPs	Number of authorized DMDs and DDSs	Site Street Address 1
	Chiricahua Community Health					
1040	· ·	0000000000	Ryan White Providers	99999	99999	1205 F Ave
	HEALTH SERVICES Arizona					
1151	Dept. of	0000000000	Ryan White Providers	99999	99999	150 N 18th Ave Ste 520
1202	Northland Cares	000000000	Ryan White Providers	99999	99999	3112 Clearwater Dr Ste A
21222						
21223						



## Step Three: Requesting to be added to the ECP list

- The 2017 plan year list is FINAL
  - Providers who qualified as ECPs, but were not on the ECP list were able to petition to be added to the list; the deadline was August 22, 2016 to be added as a "write-in" for the 2017 plan year
- The deadline to petition to be added to the 2018 plan year was August 22, 2016
  - BUT, similar to last year, there will be subsequent opportunities to petition to be added as a "write-in" for the 2018 plan year
- The ECP petition submission process will remain open yearround, and updates will be reflected on the following plan year ECP list

Source: June 12, 2014. Frequently Asked Questions on Essential Community Providers. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. <a href="https://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Resources/Fact-Sheets-and-FAQs/Downloads/FAQs-on-ECPs-6-12-14.pdf">https://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Resources/Fact-Sheets-and-FAQs/Downloads/FAQs-on-ECPs-6-12-14.pdf</a>



## Considerations for ECPs as they seek Contracts with QHPs

- Being an ECP and inclusion on the ECP list is not a requirement that plans contract with you; however, demonstrating an ability to provide services to specific, under-served populations allows an ECP to demonstrate value to a QHP, for instance by:
  - Providing extra services, like care coordination and language services, not usually provided in for-profit health care settings
  - Providing preventive services that QHPs are now required to cover as part of U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommendations
  - Providing services to individuals with complex conditions that encourage appropriate utilization of services and treatment adherence and that ultimately save QHPs money



## **National ECP Compliance**

- Monitoring and enforcing ECP compliance is challenging, but the following are steps RWHAP providers can take to ensure they are being treated fairly by QHPs:
  - Monitor inclusion of ECPs (and RWHAP providers in particular) in QHP networks using health care.gov and other provider network look-up tools
  - If at least one RWHAP provider is not included in a QHP network or if a QHP is offering contract terms to an ECP that are more onerous/different from contract terms offered to other non-ECP providers, contact your state Department of Insurance
  - Report challenges to national groups monitoring QHP compliance with consumer protections (NASTAD, HIV Medicine Association, Harvard Law School Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation)



## So let's talk about Arizona

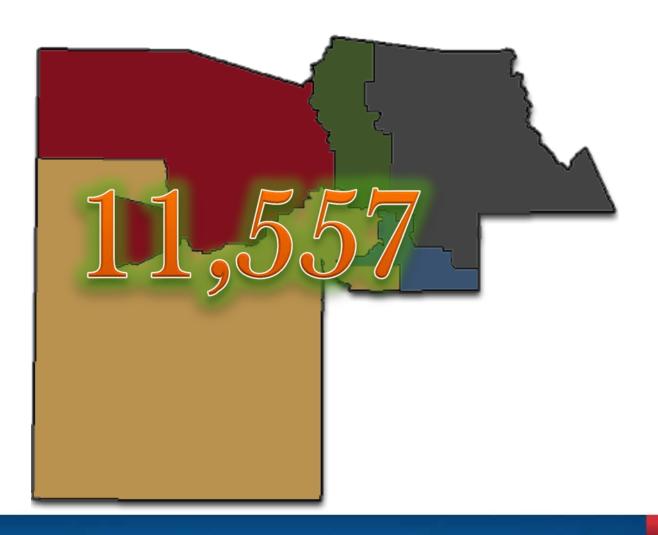


## People Living With HIV THE STATE OF ARIZONA



Arizona Department of Health Services HIV/AIDS Annual Report – August 2015

## People Living With HIV MARICOPA COUNTY

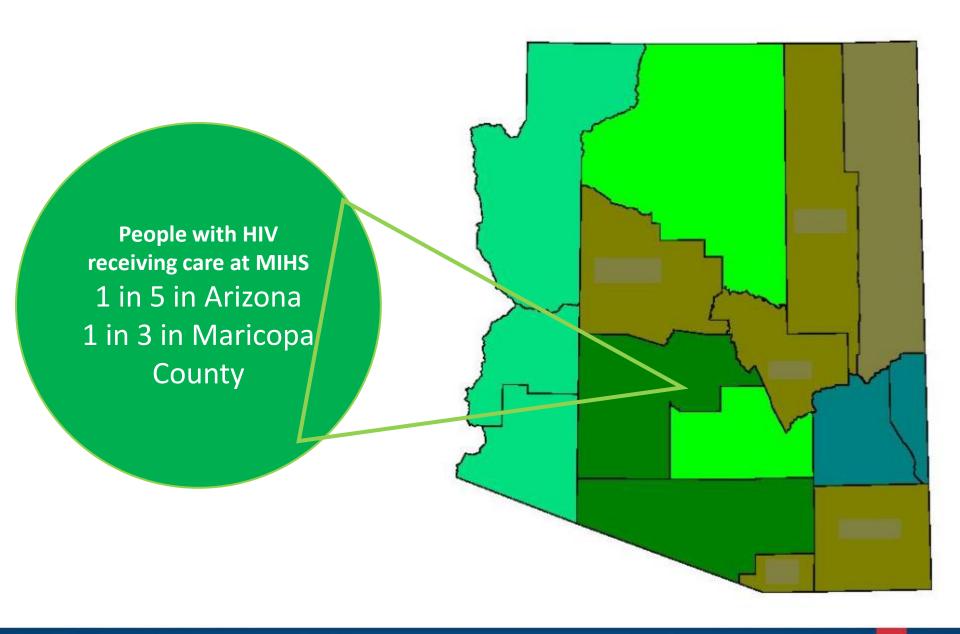




## People Living With HIV MARICOPA INTEGRATED HEALTH SYSTEM









## Which Arizona ECPs are also RWHAP medical providers?

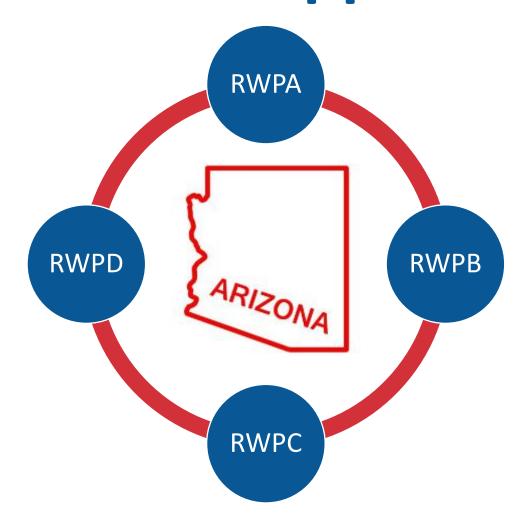
Country	Essential Community Providers				
County	Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Medical Care Providers				
Apache	None				
Cochise	None				
Coconino	Coconino County Health Department				
	North Country				
Gila	→ Gila County Health Department				
Graham	None				
Greenlee	None				
La Paz	None				
Maricopa	Maricopa Integrated Health System (MIHS), McDowell Clinic.				
	MIHS is also the Ryan White Part C and D Grantee.				
	Phoenix Indian Medical Center (PIMC).				
	PIMC only serves Native Americans.				
Mohave	None				
Navajo	None				
Pima	→ El Rio Community Health Center.				
	El Rio is also a Ryan White Part C Grantee.				
	→ The University of Arizona Petersen Clinic.				
	The Peterson Clinic is also a Ryan White Part C Grantee.				
Pinal	→ Sun Life Family Health Center				
Santa Cruz	None				
Yavapai	None				
Yuma	None				

Are there other entities in Arizona considered Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program ECPs?

No. The Arizona Department of Health Services and Maricopa County Public Health Department are NOT essential community providers.



## **Collaborative Approach**





#### Identifying, Informing, Educating and Enrolling the HIV Community into the Affordable Care Act: The Phoenix Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA) Planning Council Experience

Rose Conner, RN, M.Ed., Carmen Batista, MPH, Randall Furrow, MBA, Claire Tyrpak Maricopa County Ryan White Part A Program – Phoenix, AZ, United States · Ryan White Part A Planning Council – Phoenix, AZ, United States

IDENTIFY: The identification task was largely handled by the RWPA program staff. All existing client data was reviewed to determine whether the clients were eligible for transition to ACA coverage. To help clients understand the transition process, the program labeled the various healthcare coverage options which were based on existing insurance and income levels as "buckets".

· Categorically Ineligible

. Pre-existing Condition

Insurance Plan

#### The seven buckets were:

- Medicaid
- Medicare
- Dual Medicare / Medicaid
- Health-E AZ Plus

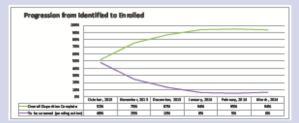
Every client was notified of their current "bucket" and whether they would be required to transition to a new "bucket".

vere le s in

October, 2013 Sweral I Di sposition To be screened

Marketplace

ENROLL: The enrollments were completed by providers who were contracted for case management and clinical services. The enrollments occurred in community based and clinical settings. The clients were supported by their case managers in a setting where they felt comfortable. End result: 94% enrollment!



INFORM: The inform subcommittee focused its efforts on communications needed for:

- · the client
- · provider agencies
- Planning Council members

This sub-committee developed an overall strategy and messaging to serve as the foundation for the communications. The strategy addressed channels, demographic sub-groups,

and tools. A toolkit was developed for the agencies to deliver the messaging. Client literacy and cultural competency was considered and incorporated into the messaging and

A Change •

Care Act

Act Now

Ahead

the channels of communication. Materials were shared with the Cover AZ coalition and published on multiple websites.

#### EDUCATE:

**Presentations** and educational materials were created to boost the health literacy of clients. Planning Council members, including consumer members, participated by conducting the training and answering questions. The presentations were given

throughout the community, to clients, to agency staff, and the Planning Council. Overall, 20 presentations in Spanish and English

were delivered over a period of three months. The ultimate goal was 100% enrollment.

Things to Know about the

October 1, 301 ik

6 Your Case Manager can

Un cambio Lpor Venir

accesible

- I may change measures.
- 7 Work with trusted groups.
- 5 Staylor offed in Span White 10 Staylor and inschool, and ADAP Services, required, programmer of represent to the staylor of the staylor of

\*Programs funded in whole or in part by the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, the Ryan White HM/ AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009 and Maricopa County



#### AFFORDABLE CARE ACT TIMELINE



Maricopa County **6th** most uninsured county in the U.S. at

675,000



OE1

120,071

**Enrolled in the Marketplace** 



228,758

**Enrolled in AHCCCS** 

Source: ASPE.hhs.gov

OE<sub>2</sub>



Arizona
166,131
Enrolled in the Marketplace
as of January 16, 2015

**Maricopa** County

107,310 Enrolled in the Marketplace as of January 16, 2015 OE3



Source: cms.gov

February 1, 2016

**Arizona** 

203,066
Enrolled in the Marketplace

Maricopa County

144,196

**Enrolled in the Marketplace** 

ACA Open Enrollment Year 3
McDowell Healthcare Center had 97% enrollment

## **ACA Implementation in AZ**

#### OE Year 1 and Year 2:

- Successful enrollment of 98% of all clients
- Medicaid expansion and RWPB payment of premiums crucial component of this accomplishment



## **ACA Implementation in AZ**

#### OE Year 3:

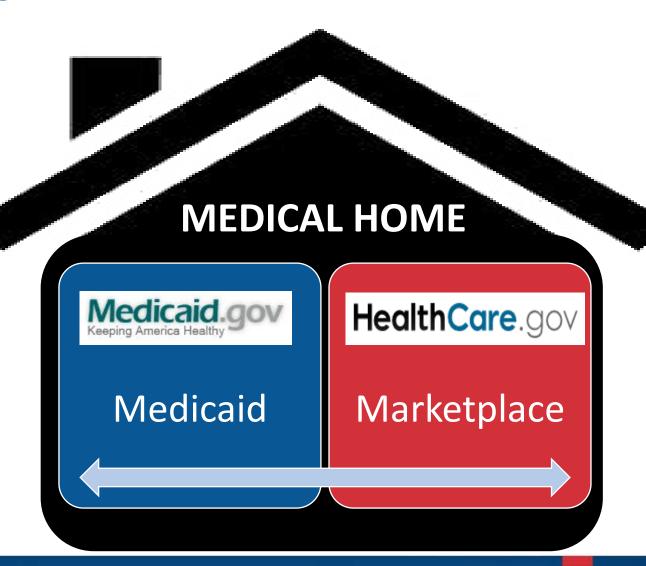
- Abrupt suspension of Meritus effected 50,000 in Arizona, forcing many to:
  - Switch providers and transition care
  - Pay higher premiums and cost sharing rates to stay with their current provider
  - Have a gap in medically necessary care





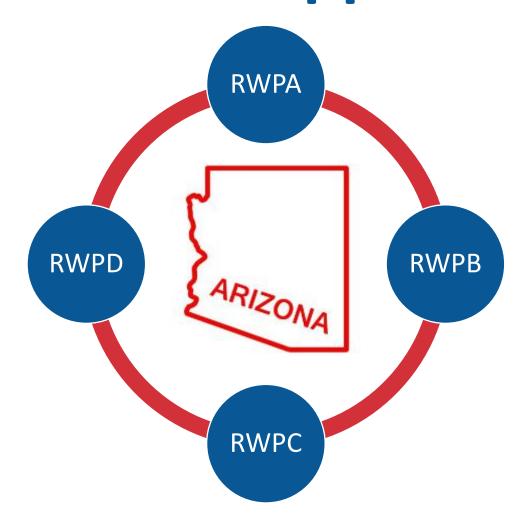
## **Continuity of Care**

- As income changes, m individuals move back and forth between pul and private health insurance eligibility.
- ECPs that accept both Medicaid and Marketplace plans provide continuity of c as Medical Homes.





## **Collaborative Approach**





## **OE3 Strategy Changed Overnight**

- On October 30, 2015 just days before the start of OE3, the Arizona Department of Insurance (DOI) announced unexpectedly in a press release that Meritus would be placed under supervision and prohibited from selling plans for 2016 due to the lack of a stable financial footing that would guarantee protection of their clients.
- Approximately 1 out of 6 Arizona Marketplace consumers were affected by Meritus being placed under supervision by the DOI.
- ☐ It was realized that over 50,000 in Arizona of which 30,000+ MIHS patients covered by the Meritus CO-OP would soon lose their medical coverage and/or medical home. Approximately 400 PLWHA in the Marketplace needed to change plans.



### What To Do in 12-Weeks?

- ☐ Staff had to be trained about the recent changes and created Quick Reference Plan Guides in
- ☐ Analyzed plan differences, it was determined that the most comparable UnitedHealthcare plan appeared to be very competitive, ranking as the second most costly option on the Marketplace for a 40-year old individual with various pre-existing conditions.
- ☐ About **22,000 (67%) out of 30,000 transitioned**
- ☐ Finally, over 1,000 calls were made to our patients seen at the HIV/AIDS clinic, resulting in 437 individuals assisted with enrolling in coverage.



## Time to Understand ECP

Found that many community members were poorly informed on the current ECP regulations and their potential impact on the community.

One study on ACA eligibility estimated that, even in states with the least amount of churning, more than 40 percent of adults likely to enroll in Medicaid or subsidized Marketplace coverage would experience a change in eligibility within twelve months.

Source: Sommers BD, Graves JA, Swartz K, Rosenbaum S. "Medicaid and Marketplace eligibility changes will occur often in all states; policy options can ease impact." *Health Affairs*. April 2014; 33 (4): 700–7.



### **Unaware and Uniformed**

- ☐ Through research, we learned that many people in the community, including insurers and providers, were unaware of the implications that these regulations imposed.
- □ ECPs are safety-net providers for the community, as described in section 340B of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act and the Social Security Act, and provide critical medical services to the most vulnerable patient

Source: "FINAL 2016 Letter to Issuers in the Federally-facilitated Marketplaces." Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. February 20, 2015.

☐ We discovered that issuers may not be compliant with this portion of the ACA, regarding ECP network adequacy requirements.



## **Open Enrollment Year 4**



## What Happens in OE4 -- Stay Tuned

OE3: MIHS (RWPC/D) has the sole Ryan White HIV/AIDS provider (RWPA) in Maricopa County (excluding Phoenix Indian Medical Center who serves only American Indians) and was not included in the other Qualified Health Plan networks except for one plan.

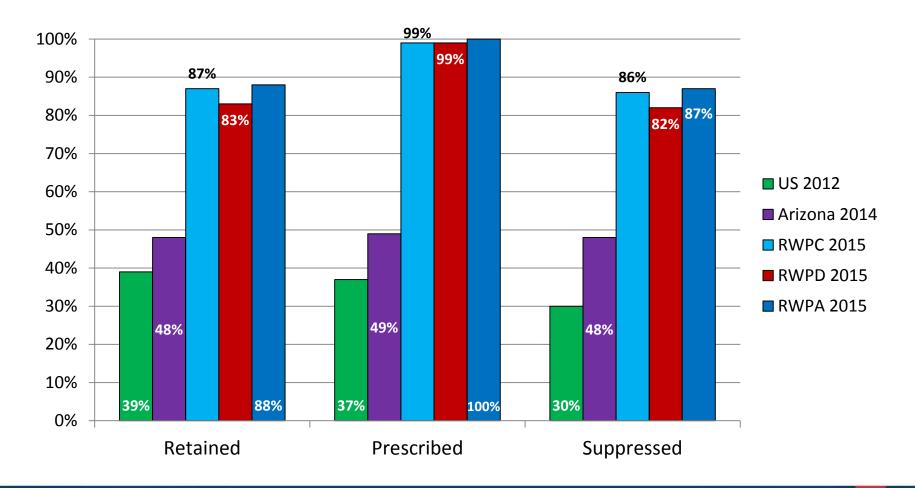
OE4: At this time (July 1, 2016) MIHS does not have a contract with any of the Qualified Health Plans.

Not enrolling would mean a lapse in necessary medical treatment, including a disruption in administration of antiretroviral medications and no continuity of medical care which may result in poorer health outcomes.



#### HIV Continuum of Care Maybe Jeopardized:

#### By Possible Loss of Medical Home



## **Open Enrollment Year 4**

Strategies to address concerns about possible ECP non-compliance moving forward:

Step 1: Know your ECP RW status with Each Qualified Health Plan

Step 2: Educate Internal Management

Step 3: Communicate with Other Ryan White Grantees and Providers

Step 4: Contact Qualified Health Plans

Step 5: Share information with Project Officer

Step 6: Collaborate with HHS and CMS Regional Offices

Step 7: Notify Office of Civil Rights, if applicable

Step 8: Inform Consumers so they can make informed choice



## **Lessons Learned (RWPC/D)**

- ☐ Critical to adopt a "Culture of Coverage" to ensure community members are able to access the health care services
- ☐ Understand that ECP must be adept at managing the natural "churning" process that occurs as an individual's eligibility for Medicaid and the Marketplace
- Become aware that there was a lack of understanding throughout the community about what constitutes an ECP and why they provide a critical service
- ☐ Know your contracts or lack of contracts with Qualified Health Plans
- ☐ View Final HHS non-exhaustive list of ECPs and know deadlines
- ☐ Visit healthcare.gov or Enroll America's Get Covered Plan Explorer to Search for QHP by provider
- Notify your Qualified Health Plans in writing if you want to be included in their network as an ECP Ryan White Provider
- ☐ Educate internal and external stakeholders
- ☐ Work with Project Officer on the challenges in your community



### Call to Action for RWPA and B

- 1. Brief leadership on why this is an important issue and how it impacts continuity of care and the patient outcomes
- 2. Update everyone's website to clearly identify essential community providers
- 3. Identify the contract holders and products
- 4. Engage your partners i.e. NASTAD, Public Health Departments, Consultant Agencies, statewide coalition



## **Contact Information**



If you would like to learn more about this issue please contact:

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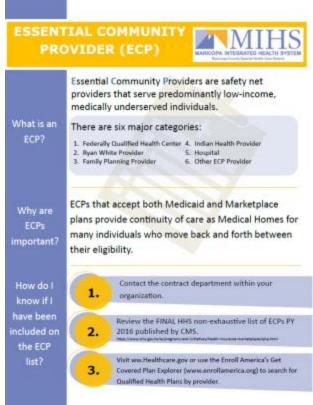
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#### **Sources and Resources for More Information:**

#### **Federal Statutes**

42 United States Code (USC) § 18031. Affordable choices of health benefit plans. https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/42/18031

42 USC § 300ff-14(b)(2). Use of amounts. https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/42/300ff-14

42 USC § 300ff-23(a)(1). Grants to establish HIV care consortia. https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/42/300ff-23

42 USC § 300ff-51(a). Establishment of a Program. https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/42/300ff-51

42 USC § 300ff-52(a)(1) and (b)(1)(B). Minimum qualifications of grantees. https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/42/300ff-52

Section 1927 of the Social Security Act [42 USC § 1396r-8] Payment for Covered Outpatient Drugs. https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/42/1396r-8

#### **Federal Regulations**

45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 156.230. Network adequacy standards. <a href="https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/45/156.230">https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/45/156.230</a>. At CFR Part 156.235. Essential community providers.

https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/45/156.235

#### **Federal Guidance**

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Chapter 7: Instructions for the Essential Community Providers Application Section, 2016 QHP Application Instructions. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. <a href="http://cms.hhs.gov/CCIIO/Programs-and-Initiatives/Files/Downloads/Chapter\_07\_ECP\_Instructions\_Ver1\_04162014.pdf">http://cms.hhs.gov/CCIIO/Programs-and-Initiatives/Files/Downloads/Chapter\_07\_ECP\_Instructions\_Ver1\_04162014.pdf</a>

Essential Community Providers Template. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. <a href="https://www.cms.gov/cciio/programs-and-initiatives/health-insurance-marketplaces/qhp.html">https://www.cms.gov/cciio/programs-and-initiatives/health-insurance-marketplaces/qhp.html</a>

Policy Notice 11-02: Clarification of Legislative Language Regarding Contracting with For Profit Entities. HIV/AIDS Bureau. <a href="http://hab.hrsa.gov/manageyourgrant/pinspals/habpl1102.pdf">http://hab.hrsa.gov/manageyourgrant/pinspals/habpl1102.pdf</a>



### **Other Sources**

MIHS Grants and Research Department. www.grants.mihs.org

www.Medicaid.gov

www.Healthcare.gov

Essential Community Providers: Information for Ryan White Providers. HIV Medicine Association. http://hivclinician.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/HCR Essential Community updated december-2014.pdf

April, 2013. Essential Community Providers: Tips to Connect with Marketplace Plans. National Academy for State Health Policy. <a href="http://www.nashp.org/sites/default/files/ecp.tips.connect.marketplace.plans.pdf">http://www.nashp.org/sites/default/files/ecp.tips.connect.marketplace.plans.pdf</a>

January 2015 Issue Brief. Federal and State Standards for "Essential Community Providers" under the ACA and Implications for Women's Health. Kaiser Family Foundation. <a href="http://kff.org/womens-health-policy/issue-brief/federal-and-state-standards-for-essential-community-providers-under-the-aca-and-implications-for-womens-health/">http://kff.org/womens-health-policy/issue-brief/federal-and-state-standards-for-essential-community-providers-under-the-aca-and-implications-for-womens-health/</a>

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August 21, 2015. Essential Community Provider Data Collection to Support QHP Certification for PY 2017. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. <a href="https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/PaperworkReductionActof1995/PRA-Listing-Items/CMS-10561.html?DLPage=1&DLEntries=10&DLFilter=10561&DLSort=1&DLSortDir=descending">https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/PaperworkReductionActof1995/PRA-Listing-Items/CMS-10561.html?DLPage=1&DLEntries=10&DLFilter=10561&DLSort=1&DLSortDir=descending</a>

