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An online version of this announcement is available at:
https://medicaring.org/2018/06/18/site-contracts/

Altarum Invites Communities to Apply for Eldercare Planning Contracts

The Program to Improve Eldercare (PIE) at Altarum Institute is preparing to award several small contracts to healthcare organizations, Public Health Departments, Area Agencies on Aging, and community-based organizations (CBOs) to carry out guided planning efforts to improve care for frail elders though more effective use of existing data concerning persons living in their catchment areas. The overall goal is to help local management define and generate measures of the local system's performance concerning eldercare.

The contracts will not require collecting any new data. Each site will work with their own data that is already on hand to conduct aggregated analyses for their own community and region. The results of all funded contracts will form the basis for a national White Paper on how communities across the United States can monitor and manage the arrangements for care for elders living with disabilities and chronic conditions through improved use of aggregated data from multiple sources, such as clinical care, surveys, and use of community services.

Our goal is to empower communities and therefore to fund pilot projects that show high promise using several different approaches to community management of eldercare. Throughout, we aim to work with the sites to identify and document business models in use at the partner sites to support existing or improved system performance for providing adequate supportive care services.

This effort is funded by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation through Grant GBMF5662 to Altarum Institute ("Aggregating Care Plans to Manage Supportive Care Services for Elders"), Joanne Lynn, M.D., Principal Investigator.

We invite organizations to contact us to discuss this in order to determine their interest in participating. **Please contact us via email to info@medicaring.org.** We will be happy to help you determine if your community would be a suitable candidate for these projects. Contracts will be awarded in two phases.

1. Site Readiness Assessment Contracts
   (Performed from July 2018 through November 2018)
2. Site Pilot Implementation Contracts
   (to be completed by June 2019)

SITE READINESS ASSESSMENT CONTRACTS (PERFORMED FROM JULY 2018 THROUGH NOVEMBER 2018)

- The Readiness Assessment contract phase will select up to ten geographically-focused organizations ("sites") to receive a contract of $10,000 to participate in a structured strategic planning process to help the sites evaluate their current uses of data related to service provision for elders in their geographic region. We are looking for sites that at least begin to represent a geographic community's population and that include at least some attention to both social supports and medical care. We are interested in entire catchment areas as a service delivery setting. With assistance from our national program staff, the sites will prepare a Readiness Assessment and strategic plan for improving quality and reducing cost for their eldercare system through better use of data and management information systems.
- Our national staff will work with each of the sites to prepare a customized project plan that works backward from the seven strategic planning outputs we are studying for each site. The list of outputs in seven study domains is summarized in Table A, below. At the end of the planning process, each site will receive a Readiness Assessment report that will form the basis of our selection process for the next round of contracts, which will provide limited funding toward some costs of actual implementations in some sites.

SITE PILOT IMPLEMENTATION CONTRACTS (TO BE COMPLETED BY JUNE 2019)

- This phase will award Pilot Implementation contracts at up to six sites to carry out pilot projects based on their Readiness Assessment results. The amount of the Pilot Implementation Contracts will vary depending on the projects proposed by the sites, but we expect that the minimum awards will be approximately $30,000 per site. Some sites may receive larger awards if their plans are complex. As with the Readiness Assessment contracts, our national staff will provide advisory assistance, but actual work will be done by the sites themselves to ensure that an ongoing capability is built locally in a sustainable manner. The Pilot Implementation contracts will probably not cover all implementation costs for every project. Local participation will be needed to ensure the pilot has some chance of being sustainable.

- If, at the end of the Pilot Implementation, a site has built a working data flow environment and demonstration management information system and has shown that the analytics coming from it are of actionable value to decisionmakers, our national staff will explore with them ways to seek continuation funding to help them transition the pilot system to an ongoing management reporting system. Continuation funding is not guaranteed as part of this effort, so finding ways to create sustainable business models is an important part of the process.

TABLE A: OVERVIEW OF SITE READINESS ASSESSMENT DOMAINS

The site Readiness Assessment planning process will provide sites with a $10,000 contract to work with our national staff to explore seven key domains that are essential to creation of an effective management reporting system for community eldercare. We do not expect that all sites will have advanced information technology capabilities in place. Information for this process is expected to be collected primarily by videoconferencing, with little or no travel expenditures for site personnel. The questions listed in this table will be explored during the Readiness Assessment contract period, and need not be answered as part of a contract application.

MODULES	QUESTIONS EXPLORED DURING THE READINESS ASSESSMENT CONTRACT	OUTPUTS FROM THE READINESS ASSESSMENT CONTRACT
1. Define Data Strategy and Vision	1. How could you improve the quality of life for frail elders in your catchment region by improving the use of data? 2. What business problems are you trying to solve now? 3. What results are you expecting? 4. Can you act to change things based on what you find? 5. What business model could fund this type of work on an ongoing basis? 6. How can risk stratification and improved client pathways improve quality and reduce cost?	1. A brief overview of their data strategy written by our site team for that site. We expect this to be an iterative process as sites explore more deeply about what data they have and how they could use it more effectively to guide efforts to improve the service delivery arrangements in the community.

2. Understand Governance Model	1. Who is responsible for the overall effectiveness of the system? [By "system" we refer to all the various service operations that affect the total quality and cost of care, recognizing that these operations may be in many hands.] 2. Does anyone take responsibility for how well all the operations actually serve the population? 3. Is the scope of the system understood as, at least in part, a geographic catchment region (e.g., a city, county, or other defined region)? 4. Does someone have authority to change things in the system? 5. Who are the other major stakeholders in this environment? Are they supportive and engaged, or could they be? 6. Given what you know now, would increasing collaboration and shared problem-solving between medical providers, public services, and community-based service agencies improve the experience of living with disabilities and serious chronic conditions in old age for elders and their caregivers in the region?"	1. A brief overview of their governance model written by our site team for that site.

MODULES	QUESTIONS EXPLORED DURING THE READINESS ASSESSMENT CONTRACT	OUTPUTS FROM THE READINESS ASSESSMENT CONTRACT
3. Understand Data Sources	1. What information sources are available to you now? 2. Will those information sources give you what you need to address the business problem? 3. What information could be added to the mix from internal or external sources? 4. What privacy and confidentiality issues apply to the data?	1. A list of data sources, data dictionaries, and data formats available, with some assessment of data quality. 2. Data flow diagram showing existing relationships between sources. 3. These outputs will be either produced or reviewed by our technical and statistical staff. 4. Examine the privacy and confidentiality rules that apply to these data sources, and prevailing practices at the site. 5. For data that will require anonymization or de-identification, have a preliminary plan for how those requirements will be addressed.

MODULES	QUESTIONS EXPLORED DURING THE READINESS ASSESSMENT CONTRACT	OUTPUTS FROM THE READINESS ASSESSMENT CONTRACT
4. Leverage a Health Information Exchange (HIE)	1. Is there a HIE available in the geographic region? 2. Do any of the project participants currently connect to a HIE? 3. What types of data do the participants move through HIEs? 4. Do the HIEs provide data storage and/or data analysis services in addition to data transport services? 5. Can utilization of HIEs be improved?	1. A brief overview of the HIEs available in the entire region, regardless of connection status to any of the partners, and a list of the technical capabilities of those HIEs with regard to data transport, data storage, and data analysis. 2. Determination of permissible data uses for data moving through or stored within HIEs. 3. Determination if connecting to an HIE with help of a subvendor would be helpful during a following implementation phase.
5. Prepare the Data	1. What data will be extracted, and who will extract it? 2. Should data be cleaned and/or normalized, and if so, how? 3. Should data be de-identified and/or anonymized? If so, how, and at what point in the data flow? 4. Should data be aggregated? If so, how, and at what point in the data flow? 5. Where will the data be processed and/or aggregated prior to analysis?	1. A preliminary list of high-value data that could be extracted for purposes of this study. This list of potential extracts must be shown within the overall data flow diagram produced by our technical staff. 2. The list of high-value data should be guided by the “Strategy and Vision” outlined in planning module #1, above). We aim for an iterative process between the governance and the available data to begin to shape a small number of actionable and important metrics.

MODULES	QUESTIONS EXPLORED DURING THE READINESS ASSESSMENT CONTRACT	OUTPUTS FROM THE READINESS ASSESSMENT CONTRACT
6. Analyze and Validate the Data	1. What analytic methods will be useful for this data? 2. Can the analysis method be repeated for future time periods? 3. Where will data be stored during analysis? 4. Can results be validated for accuracy and compliance with all necessary privacy requirements? 5. Can results be presented visually?	1. A preliminary sense of where the site could analyze the data, by whom, and what analytic capabilities the site has. This would include review of the site's existing analytical platforms and statistical expertise. 2. General description of the existing analysis software available to the site (SPSS, SAS, R, etc.) 3. General description of options for a data storage location for data analysis, including any privacy and confidentiality issues for that location. 4. Preliminary specification of the statistical methods planned. 5. Estimate of the labor requirement for the proposed analytical phase and identification of proposed personnel to do the analytic work. 6. Identify any requirement for a subvendor for analysis services.

MODULES	QUESTIONS EXPLORED DURING THE READINESS ASSESSMENT CONTRACT	OUTPUTS FROM THE READINESS ASSESSMENT CONTRACT
7. Report Results and Create a Management Information System	1. Can the reporting process be put on a regular periodic schedule as part of a management information system? 2. Will business decisionmakers find the reports understandable and actionable? 3. Will some or all the findings be made public? 4. Can the system deploy some reports via the internet?	1. What vision does the site have for an ongoing management information system that can display analytical results in an actionable form for review by decisionmakers? 2. Output will include a brief (1 or 2 page) description of the site's vision for an ongoing management information system that has the potential to produce actionable results.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

Have additional questions or need help? Contact the Program to Improve Eldercare (PIE) at Altarum Institute by sending email to info@medicaring.org.