

**PROVIDER INNOVATION PROJECTS
FUNDED THROUGH THE VERMONT HEALTH CARE INNOVATION PROJECT**

Round One Grantee
Rutland Area Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice in Collaboration with Rutland Regional Medical Center, Community Health Centers of the Rutland Region and the Rutland Community Health Team
Project Title
Supportive Care Program Pilot
Grant Amount
\$112,063
Project Description
This project will support design and implementation of a supportive care program for seriously ill patients with congestive heart failure and /or chronic lung disease. The program will improve communication between the multiple providers and organizations involved in the care of these patients and advance a patient-centered model for care planning and shared decision-making. The project is expected to reduce use of hospital and emergency department care, improve patient quality of life and save money.

Round One Grantee
Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital in Collaboration with Northern Counties Health Care, Rural Edge Affordable Housing, the Support and Services at Home (SASH) Program, the Northeastern Vermont Area Agency on Aging and Northeast Kingdom Community Services
Project Title
The Caledonia and Essex County Dual Eligible Project
Grant Amount
\$176,400
Project Description
This project will provide flexible funding for goods and services not normally covered by insurance, enabling an integrated multi-disciplinary community care team to better care for clients who are at risk for poor outcomes and high costs of medical care.

Round One Grantee
White River Family Practice in Collaboration with the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth College
Project Title
Patient Self-Confidence Leads to Improved Chronic Disease Management and Less Hospitalization
Grant Amount
\$363,070
Project Description
<p>White River Family Practice is an innovative, progressive family medicine practice that has developed a culture of quality improvement that creates an ideal platform to model and disseminate health reform initiatives. This project will further develop an already sophisticated clinical care system to achieve the following aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • measure and reduce emergency room utilization and hospital readmission among patients; • track patient confidence and utilize this metric to stratify patients with chronic disease to achieve improved disease outcomes and reduced utilization; and • deploy team based care protocols targeting patients with chronic disease.

Round One Grantee
InvestEAP in Collaboration with the Burlington Community Health Center and Northern Counties Health Care
Project Title
Resilient Vermont
Grant Amount
\$250,000
Project Description
InvestEAP, Vermont’s public/private employee assistance program, and a federally-qualified health center, will partner to demonstrate the impact of integrating an innovative stress prevention and early intervention program with traditional primary care delivery. The project embodies the core belief that early intervention aimed at the social determinants of health and the root causes of stress will improve health outcomes and reduce medical expenditures.

Round One Grantee
The Vermont Medical Society Education and Research Foundation in Collaboration with Vermont’s “Hospitalist” Physicians and the University of Vermont Medical Center Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Project Title
Implementing a Vermont Hospital Medicine Choosing Wisely® Program, Including Reducing Unnecessary Laboratory Testing in Low-Risk Surgical Candidates
Grant Amount
\$548,829
Project Description
This project will support an effort to decrease waste and potential harm in the hospital setting based on evidence behind the national “Choosing Wisely” campaign that estimates 30 percent of U.S. health care spending is avoidable and potentially harmful. Physicians from Vermont hospitals and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center will work together to reduce unnecessary lab testing, and in doing so will create a statewide provider network to lead additional waste reduction and care improvement efforts.

Round One Grantee
Bi-State Primary Care in Collaboration with all Participating Providers and Affiliates of Community Health Accountable Care
Project Title
Capacity Grant for Accountable Care Organization Development
Grant Amount
\$400,000
Project Description
Eleven Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and Bi-State Primary Care Association have formed a primary care centric Accountable Care Organization (ACO), Community Health Accountable Care, LLC (CHAC), to participate in shared savings programs with Medicare, Medicaid, and at least one commercial payer. CHAC will implement the ACO model to monitor quality of care through data, promote evidence-based medicine, and coordinate care with participating community providers. The outcome will be improved quality and reduced cost of care, particularly for high risk patients.

Round One Grantee
Healthfirst in Collaboration with all Participating Providers and Affiliates of their ACOs: Accountable Care Coalition of the Green Mountains and Vermont Collaborative Physicians
Project Title
Capacity Grant for Accountable Care Organization Development
Grant Amount
\$400,000
Project Description
Healthfirst is an Independent Practice Association that includes 139 physicians in 63 independent practices in Vermont. Healthfirst has formed ACOs to participate in both the Medicare and commercial shared savings programs. This capacity grant will allow Healthfirst to further develop their ACO infrastructure to manage patient care. Their specific focus will be increasing coordination in medical homes between primary care and other clinical practitioners and increasing communication between primary care and specialty physicians.

Round Two Grantee
RISE Coalition: Northwestern Medical Center in collaboration with all of Franklin County
Project Title
Vermont Prevention Model Campaign to Improve the Health of Franklin County Residents.
Grant Amount
\$400,000
Project Description
<p>RiseVT is a collaborative, community-wide campaign designed using the Vermont Prevention Model (socio-ecological model). This broad community campaign intends to impact the health of Franklin County residents by targeting policies, infrastructure, education, the environment, and culture within municipalities, worksites, schools and families. The program is integrated with Patient Centered Medical Homes in Franklin County and will include development of a central clearinghouse for "all things health and wellness."</p> <p>As a focus, three key indicators were selected that will continually work to increase physical activity and healthy eating in the community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the overall health of residents by decreasing the percentage of overweight and obese individuals; • Increase the number of employers offering a wellness program in which greater than 50% of the employees participate; and • Expand resources for biking and walking

Round Two Grantee
Developmental Disabilities Council with Green Mountain Self Advocates
Project Title
The Inclusive Health Care Partnership Project
Grant Amount
\$193,000
Project Description
<p>The goal of this Project is to establish a set of best practices in the delivery of health services to adult Vermonters with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) that support good health and positive encounters with health care professionals in the delivery of high quality, cost effective care.</p> <p>Specifically, the project will create a work group that will review best practices in healthcare delivery to the adult developmentally disabled population, collect and analyze qualitative and quantitative data that describes the health status and care experience of these individuals, hold focus groups and structured interviews with adults with I/DD, family caregivers and health and disabilities and long terms support services providers. Informed and supported by this collaboration, the project will create a White Paper that will incorporate the work group’s findings and provide actionable recommendations that stakeholders can implement on a pilot basis.</p>

Round Two Grantee
Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care in collaboration with Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems, Vermont College of American College of Surgeons, all Vermont hospitals, and Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center.
Project Title
NSQIP Statewide Surgical Services Collaborative
Grant Amount
\$900,000
Project Description
This statewide provider-led initiative will support the collection, submission, and reporting of surgical procedure data. Quality assessment and improvement has long been a cornerstone of surgical practice and is central to the professional identity of surgeons. By implementing a nationally-recognized clinical database (ACS-NSQIP), this project will identify areas in need of improvement within current systems and deliver improved surgical outcomes, enhanced patient safety, and reduced costs across Vermont.

Round Two Grantee
Southwestern Vermont Hospital
Project Title
Innovative Adaptation of the Transitional Care Model (TCM) in a Rural Setting
Grant Amount
\$400,000
Project Description
<p>This project seeks to reduce health care costs in a small rural community through the implementation of an innovative adaptation of a transitional care model (TCM) that supports patient self-care, through care management and patient outreach. An earlier pilot project involving a team of nurse specialists deployed to three primary care practices and the emergency department has demonstrated reductions in hospital admissions and emergency department utilization; this project builds upon those early successes and will implement this innovative TCM across a rural service area to test the model's impact on population health and to inform research on its application to the Accountable Care Organization (ACO) model in Vermont.</p>

Round Two Grantee
The University of Vermont Health Network – Central Vermont Medical Center
Project Title
Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) in the Medical Home
Grant Amount
\$500,000
Project Description
<p>SBIRT is an evidence-based practice to identify, reduce and prevent substance misuse and co-occurring disorders. Following on the success of the recent implementation of SBIRT in the Emergency Department (ED), this project will extend SBIRT to seven patient centered medical homes by incorporating SBIRT screening, intervention strategies and SBIRT clinician staffing into chronic disease management practices. This project aims to prevent and reduce substance misuse, reduce healthcare costs and increase care coordination through increased patient participation in referral and addiction treatment programs and to demonstrate a regional model of care that can be promoted statewide.</p>

Round Two Grantee
Healthfirst in Collaboration with all Participating Providers and Affiliates of their ACOs: Accountable Care Coalition of the Green Mountains and Vermont Collaborative Physicians
Project Title
Healthfirst Clinical Performance Improvement
Grant Amount
\$200,000
Project Description
This project is to enhance Healthfirst’s capacity to participate in meaningful collaborations with OneCare Vermont and Community Health Accountable Care (CHAC) with the shared vision and goals of collecting, analyzing and using data for targeted healthcare performance improvement throughout Vermont. The project will support independent physician members in developing, implementing and improving care delivery strategies. The project aims to reduce non-emergent Emergency Room use and hospitalizations for ambulatory care sensitive conditions.

Round Two Grantee
InvestEAP with King Arthur Flour
Project Title
Behavioral Health Screening and Intervention
Grant Amount
\$60,145
Project Description
<p>Through this project, Invest EAP will partner with WellSys, a physician-owned business dedicated to helping healthcare professionals bring Behavioral Screening and Intervention to their clinical settings, and the Vermont-based employer, King Arthur Flour. Invest EAP will provide behavioral screening and interventions to demonstrate its effectiveness in the workplace as a means to improve health outcomes and reduce medical expenditures, by working closely with the Human Resource Department of King Arthur Flour to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • create an incentive for workers to access our behavioral health screening; • educate employees; and • provide employees with clear directions to access the program.