Rural Health Network Development Planning Grant (HRSA-21-021)

The PSO Network
Introduction

The Maine Primary Care Association (MPCA or MePCA) proposes to use this one-year planning grant to develop a network of predominantly rural, federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) that are also members of MePCA PSO -- the nation’s first PCA-led, FQHC-focused Patient Safety Organization. PSOs are designed to provide safe harbor for health care providers to analyze and share data related to errors, unsafe conditions, and near misses, with the aim of learning from and ultimately preventing these threats to patient safety, primarily through system improvements.
Legislative Aims of this grant program: To promote the development of integrated health care networks in order to:

1. achieve efficiencies ("achieve better system efficiencies and improve regional and/or local rural health care services through collaboration, access to additional services/resources, and quality improvement")
2. expand access to, coordinate, and improve the quality of basic health care services ("build capacity and a network infrastructure that enables entities to coordinate care and increase access to care for rural communities both locally and regionally"); and
3. strengthen the rural health care system as a whole ("enhance community and partner relationships to promote involvement and participation in network planning grant activities aiming to strengthen the regional health care system")
Goal 1: Establish PSO Network Planning Cohort as a cohesive group with clear plans and timelines. (Outcome: Network strategic plan; Measure: Network alignment on priorities)

- Formally launch PSO Network Planning Cohort
- Design and conduct strategic planning process
Goal 2: Create a Data Governance Framework to support FQHCs as members of the MePCA PSO network.

*Outcome:* MePCA PSO Network Data Governance Framework;
*Measure:* Operational data dashboard

- Scan for relevant data sources, including those that have emerged or evolved during the pandemic
- Compile data profiles of MePCA PSO members/network (e.g., services provided, geographic areas served, patient populations served, clinical quality measures)
- Develop MePCA PSO Data Dashboard to inform and support the network
Goal 3: PSO network members progress along continuum of active involvement toward improving care. (Outcome: Increase in uploading events; Measure: Systems issues identified, addressed, disseminated)

- Streamline process for onboarding to PSO (new staff, new members)
- Develop standards and norms for PSO activity
- Provide opportunities for PSO network members to discuss implications of events, root cause analyses, data trends and comparisons
- Develop or fine-tune T/TA offerings to address identified systems issues that affect quality of care
- Test targeted deployment of PSO capabilities to address network priorities for improvement of care
Goal 4: Develop a value proposition of PSO membership for rural-serving FQHCs. (Outcome: PSO network membership value proposition; Measure: Expansion of PSO network)

- Document return on investment (ROI) of PSOs.
- Expand PSO membership by 50% (to include all FQHCs in Maine)
- Leverage network members’ referral relationships (local hospitals, labs, specialists) to improve efficiencies and access
- Develop and vet value proposition language
Further discussion re NOFO, network, application, workplan (Maureen to share)