**Steal Sheet - June 2015**

NOSORH offers Steal Sheet articles for SORHs to distribute in emails, in your (or your partners’) newsletter, on web sites, Facebook pages, etc. The June Steal Sheet includes:

**New Resources:**

1) Rural Health Works Tools for Network Planning Grants

2) AHRQ Webinar on June 10th Featuring Hospital Success Stories from Patient Safety Organizations

**Funding Roundup:**

1) Aetna Foundation, HHS, & NHIT Collaborative Innovating for the Underserved Business Plan Challenge

2) USDA Announces Funding Opportunity for Distance Learning and Telemedicine Projects

3) Cooperative Agreements to Support Navigators in federally-facilitated and State Partnership Exchanges (CFDA 93.332)

**New Resources:**

1) Rural Health Works Tools for Network Planning Grants

The National Center for Rural Health Works has compiled some great resources. Available tools include:

* An economic impact study of the health network

It is important to inform the community leaders of the economic contribution the healthcare network members have or will have on the local economy and on economic development. The importance of health networks in providing health services is understood, but few know the economic contributions the health network will make on the local economy. NCRHW has a model to measure the economic impact of health services on a local economy. The model measures the employment and labor income generated by the health service and all secondary economic activity generated in other businesses and industries in the local economy.

Results of an economic impact study can be used to gain community support for a health network. The economic impact study not only shows the jobs and labor income created but discusses the importance of health services to economic development. Once community leaders see how important health services are to economic development, they not only use and promote them but are also willing to support them with time and money. Likewise, these reports are extremely useful when seeking financial support from local foundations and other grant opportunities or funding mechanisms.

* Community health needs assessment (CHNA) toolkit

The CHNA toolkit was developed to assist rural not-for profit hospitals to conduct a CHNA to meet the new legislative requirements of “The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act” of 2010. The CHNA toolkit is very versatile and can be adapted for network planning grantees to utilize in assessing the needs in their community for planning and developing the health network.

The toolkit is designed for professionals/consultants to facilitate the process or for networks/ communities to conduct the assessment themselves. The toolkit is designed to be conducted through three or more community meetings. Community input will be received through a community advisory committee, representing all sectors of the community economy. The toolkit includes the following:

* Community health needs survey
* Demographic & economic data report
* Health indicator/health outcome report
* Community survey results

The information gleaned from all of these will aid the community committee in determining the community’s health needs and in prioritizing the needs for the health network. The CHNA process will result in:

* A prioritized listing of the community’s health needs
* A strategy for addressing the needs and issues identified
* An action plan, including agency responsibilities for implementing the action plan and including each network facility’s role in the network
* Feasibility tools and templates

Tools to determine the need for rural health services are available from NCRHW. For example, a tool has been developed to estimate the number of primary care providers a given medical service area can support. In addition, if the community wants to set up a specialty physician clinic, a template is available to estimate how many days a week that the community can support a given specialist.

Technical assistance is available from NCRHW staff. More detail on the tools and templates is also available on the [website](http://www.ruralhealthworks.org).

2) AHRQ Webinar on June 10 Featuring Hospital Success Stories From Patient Safety Organizations

AHRQ is hosting a webinar June 10 from 2 to 3 p.m. ET to highlight the AHRQ Patient Safety Organization (PSO) program and present success stories from hospitals that are members of one or more PSOs. Hospitals will share how their organizations have used their PSO for meaningful patient safety and quality improvement.

Speakers:

•Diane Cousins, R.Ph. AHRQ, Rockville, Maryland (Moderator)

•Vereline Johnson, R.N., M.S.N. Saint Francis Medical Center, Cape Girardeau, Missouri

•Chris Dickinson, M.D. University of Michigan Health System, Ann Arbor, Michigan

[Registration](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJlbWFpbCI6InN0ZXBoQG5vc29yaC5vcmciLCJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoiMTAwIiwic3Vic2NyaWJlcl9pZCI6IjM4ODY3NDIzNiIsImxpbmtfaWQiOiIyODA3ODMzNiIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpkaWdlc3QiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL2V2ZW50Lm9uMjQuY29tL2V2ZW50UmVnaXN0cmF0aW9uL0V2ZW50TG9iYnlTZXJ2bGV0P3RhcmdldD1yZWdpc3RyYXRpb24uanNwJmFtcDtldmVudGlkPTk3NjY0OSZhbXA7c2Vzc2lvbmlkPTEmYW1wO2tleT04MjIzQzZDQ0YzMDlBNDc4QTY5MEU1OTUxOTlFRkIwOSZhbXA7c291cmNlcGFnZT1yZWdpc3RlciIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAxNTA1MTIuNDQ5MDQ1NTEifQ._qvFz1BmO8vt1OZr5rh_3ezYIwXmO0whPH7-m8jeU1E) is open.

Funding Roundup:

1) [Aetna Foundation, HHS, & NHIT Collaborative Innovating for the Underserved Business Plan Challenge](http://www.health2con.com/devchallenge/aetna-foundation-hhs-nhit-innovating-for-the-underserved-business-plan-challenge/)

This challenge is a unique opportunity for individuals and organizations to compete with their best ideas for products and services that use technology to reduce disparities and address the needs of underserved and minority populations that are hampered by problems that health IT can easily solve such as access to services and information, language barriers and lack of relevant educational programs.

This innovative challenge seeks proposals from non-profit teams or entities for leveraging health and communication information technology and data to address one of three key challenges in underserved or vulnerable populations:

* **Access to Services**: In many low-income, minority or underserved communities, it is challenging for individuals and families to locate and utilize available services for their health and well-being. They are often faced with conflicting information about operating hours and eligibility criteria, logistical complexity and potential language or literacy issues. In many cases, community health workers and social workers help fill these gaps. Solutions to these issues can be targeted at either individuals/patients or their service providers.
* **Childhood Obesity**: According to the CDC, there are significant racial and age disparities in obesity prevalence among children and adolescents. In 2011-2012, obesity prevalence was higher among Hispanics (22.4%) and non-Hispanic black youth (20.2%) than non-Hispanic white youth (14.1%). The underlying causes of obesity in underserved communities are multi-faceted and complex and may include challenges that can be solved through health IT like access to care, access to fresh fruits and vegetables and education on healthy lifestyles and healthy eating.
* **Connecting Data between Systems**: The healthcare industry has invested heavily for years in improving electronic health records. Unfortunately, many behavioral health and other social service providers have either not been included, or made similar investments on their own. Connecting and sharing data is expensive to implement, requires careful navigation of privacy and confidentiality requirements and is occasionally resisted by the providers themselves. Proposals should focus on solving for provider to create connectivity.

2) [USDA Announces Funding Opportunity for Distance Learning and Telemedicine Projects](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2015/05/0146.xml&contentidonly=true)

USDA's Rural Utilities Service, a Rural Development agency is making $19 million available for fiscal year 2015. The Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program finances telecommunications equipment, computer networks and advanced technologies for use by students, teachers, medical professionals and rural residents. Minimum grant amounts are $50,000; maximum amounts are $500,000 for fiscal year 2015.

3) **Cooperative Agreements to Support Navigators in federally-facilitated and State Partnership Exchanges (CFDA 93.332)**

**Agency**: Dept. of Health and Human Services;

**Funding**: 100 awards totaling $60 million; grants are likely to be for one-time only;

**Eligibility**: Public and private nonprofits, self-employed individuals, tribal organizations;

**Deadline**: Letters of intent required by June 3; applications, June 15.

**The Basics**: The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is now accepting applications for funding to support Navigators in Federally-facilitated Marketplaces (FFM), including State Partnership Marketplaces.  Navigators provide objective information about health coverage to help consumers make the best possible choice.  They are knowledgeable about qualified health plans in the Marketplaces, and public programs including Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program.

Grants support Exchange Navigators in states with a federally-facilitated Exchange, as authorized under the Affordable Care Act, or states collaborating with the federal government under a state partnership exchange. Navigators are organizations or individuals which facilitate education about and enrollment in qualified health plans (QHPs) through exchanges. ACA guidelines require that at least two types of entities serve as Navigators in each exchange, and that at least one navigator be a community and consumer-focused nonprofit.

***Technical assistance:***

The agency will hold a series of webinars for potential applicants for Navigator Funding Opportunities on the following dates:

1. Wednesday, April 29, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. EST, https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1061468
2. Wednesday, May 6, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. EST, https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1061470
3. Wednesday, May 20, from 11a.m. to12:30 p.m. EST, URL: https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1061472
4. Wednesday, June 3, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. EST, https://goto.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1061473

Questions; navigatorgrants@cms.hhs.gov;

Funding is available to eligible individuals, as well as private and public entities, applying to serve as Navigators in states with a FFM.  Grantees will be selected for a three-year project period, and a total of up to $67 million is available for the first year of the award. This funding opportunity is open to new and returning HHS Navigator grant applicants. Applications are due by **June 15, 2015.** The funding opportunity announcement is available [here](http://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTUwNDI3LjQ0NDY4NDUxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE1MDQyNy40NDQ2ODQ1MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3NDQ5MTMxJmVtYWlsaWQ9a2Fzc2llY0Bub3Nvcmgub3JnJnVzZXJpZD1rYXNzaWVjQG5vc29yaC5vcmcmZmw9JmV4dHJhPU11bHRpdmFyaWF0ZUlkPSYmJg==&&&100&&&http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=93.332), and additional information about Navigators is available [here](http://links.govdelivery.com/track?type=click&enid=ZWFzPTEmbWFpbGluZ2lkPTIwMTUwNDI3LjQ0NDY4NDUxJm1lc3NhZ2VpZD1NREItUFJELUJVTC0yMDE1MDQyNy40NDQ2ODQ1MSZkYXRhYmFzZWlkPTEwMDEmc2VyaWFsPTE3NDQ5MTMxJmVtYWlsaWQ9a2Fzc2llY0Bub3Nvcmgub3JnJnVzZXJpZD1rYXNzaWVjQG5vc29yaC5vcmcmZmw9JmV4dHJhPU11bHRpdmFyaWF0ZUlkPSYmJg==&&&101&&&http://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Programs-and-Initiatives/Health-Insurance-Marketplaces/assistance.html).