

IOWA

FLEX PROGRAM

RURAL HOSPITAL MEDICARE FLEXIBILITY PROGRAM

Through the Flex Program, eligible critical access hospitals are able to participate in activities and programs aimed at quality improvement, financial and operational improvement, and population and community health at no cost.

FLEX PROGRAM AREAS

Required in order to participate in other activities.

Can participate in these activities if quality improvement requirements are met.



Quality Improvement

The quality improvement area includes MBQIP data. **Submitting MBQIP data is the only requirement for critical access hospitals to participate in the Flex Program.** If critical access hospitals meet the MBQIP reporting requirements, they are automatically able to participate in Flex Program activities.

Iowa Healthcare Collaborative sends MBQIP reports to hospitals and provides technical assistance, webinars/calls, and live events related to quality improvement.



Financial Improvement

HomeTown Health provides financial improvement webinars, triage resources, live meetings, comparative dashboards, in-depth assessments and action planning, and peer assistance.



Operational Improvement

HomeTown Health provides operational improvement webinars, live meetings, comparative dashboards, in-depth assessments and action planning, and peer assistance.



Population Health

Iowa Healthcare Collaborative provides community health needs assessment technical assistance webinars. The Iowa Department of Public Health provides individual technical assistance with community health needs assessments and health improvement plans.

CONTACT

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MENU OF SERVICES



QUALITY IMPROVEMENT provided by Iowa Healthcare Collaborative

These activities are aimed at providing technical assistance and resources for improving hospitals' quality measures and practices. Activities include:

- Flex CAHLs
- Flex Quality Improvement Statewide Meeting
- Four regional and virtual workshops
- Distribution of MBQIP reports
- MBQIP/quality improvement technical assistance
- MBQIP/quality improvement webinars
- Quality Improvement Peer Mentor Assistance Program

OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENT provided by HomeTown Health

Hospital Operations Education and Strategies (HOPES) activities help hospitals identify opportunities for improvement in various areas of operations, such as leadership, efficiency (process improvement methodologies), data utilization, workforce, employee engagement, market share, care management and coordination and performance in various service lines. Activities include:

- HOPES training webinar series
- HOPES Statewide Workshop
- Four regional and virtual workshops
- Access to the Iowa CAH Operational Comparative Dashboard and Individual Hospital Dashboards
- HOPES in-depth assessments and action planning (for 10 "High Opportunity" CAHs)
- HOPES Peer Mentor Assistance Program

FINANCIAL IMPROVEMENT provided by HomeTown Health

Financial Integrity through Revenue Education and Strategies (FIRES) activities provide tools to monitor key financial indicators, education to address standards for compliant practices with integrity and individual hospital assistance for those in high distress. Activities focus on both revenue integrity and reimbursement, leading to compliance in coding, collections and billing practices. Activities help to reduce risk and costs related to managing denials and audits downstream in the revenue cycle. Activities include:

- FIRES webinar series
- FIRES financial triage resources
- FIRES Statewide Workshop
- Four regional and virtual workshops
- Access to the Iowa CAH Financial Comparative Dashboard and Individual Hospital Dashboards
- FIRES in-depth assessments and action planning (for 10 "High Risk" CAHs)
- FIRES Peer Mentor Assistance Program

POPULATION HEALTH provided by Iowa Healthcare Collaborative and Iowa Department of Public Health

Population health activities are aimed at providing assistance with community health needs assessments, encouraging collaboration with local public health and assisting with population health projects.

- Iowa Healthcare Collaborative provides community health needs assessment webinars based on identified technical assistance needs of Iowa's critical access hospitals
- The Iowa Department of Public Health provides in-depth, one-on-one technical assistance for community health needs assessments