



# HEALTH CARE QUALITY ACCOUNT 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene  
Office of Health Care Quality

Martin O'Malley, Governor  
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor  
John M. Colmers, Secretary  
Wendy A. Kronmiller, Director

## Overview

Maryland's nursing home Health Care Quality Account was established in 2000 by the General Assembly and mirrors the account established by federal regulation to be used to improve the quality of care in nursing homes. The State and federal accounts are funded through civil money penalties assessed to nursing homes for violations of standards. The State fund account represents penalties assessed by the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ) when a deficiency exists or there is an ongoing pattern of deficiencies in a nursing home. The federal fund account represents penalties assessed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). During the 2006 General Assembly Session, a Health Care Quality Account was established for assisted living programs.

All of these accounts are non-lapsing, special funds to be used for training, grant awards, demonstration projects, or other purposes designed to improve the quality of care in Maryland's nursing homes and assisted living programs.

The nursing home Health Care Quality Account also funds the OHCQ Technical Assistance Unit (TAU),



which conducts quality improvement surveys of nursing homes in Maryland. The quality improvement survey is consultative in nature and is intended to foster the continued refinement of quality assurance programs in homes.

The TAU identifies trends and focuses on issues or problems occurring in Maryland's nursing homes. It outlines broad goals for the facilities through its reviews. Based on the issues identified, the team educates facility staff and offers suggestions for tracking performance on problematic issues. This is an alternate way to protect vulnerable nursing home residents from substandard care and improve their quality of life.

### *OHCQ's Vision*

*The Office of Health Care Quality's vision is to achieve excellence in the quality of services provided by the health care and community service delivery system through the regulatory process.*

## A Message from Wendy A. Kronmiller, Director

One of the most rewarding aspects of being the director of the Office of Health Care Quality is seeing first hand how Health Care Quality Account monies, resulting from fines and penalties, can be used to benefit the lives of vulnerable individuals who reside in nursing homes. By supporting diverse studies, trainings, or other projects, the OHCQ is committed to carefully selecting worthy proposals for funding. Recipients range from advocates to government agencies to providers of care. I am also pleased that next year we will be able to increase grants awarded, increasing the program's impact. I am pleased that we will soon be able to make awards to benefit residents of assisted living facilities. The OHCQ is looking forward to receiving proposals and funding projects that will enhance the quality of care for the maximum number of nursing home and assisted living program residents.

## Grants Awards Process

Applications for grants from the Health Care Quality Accounts are accepted from September to May, selected in June, and are awarded on a fiscal year basis. Grant amounts vary and depend upon the number of successful applications received and availability of funds. Grants from the nursing home account have averaged between \$5,000 and \$10,000. Grants from the assisted living account will average between \$1,000 and \$2,000. For Fiscal Year 2008 grants, applications must be received by May 30, 2008. It is likely that the amount available for each grant will increase in Fiscal Year 2009.

Note: Nursing home account awards must clearly benefit nursing home residents; assisted living account awards must clearly benefit residents of assisted living programs.

### *OHCQ's Mission*

*The Office of Health Care Quality's mission is to protect the health and safety of Maryland's citizens and to ensure that there is public confidence in the health care and community service delivery systems through regulatory, enforcement, and educational activities.*

The application must include, and is evaluated on, the following criteria:

- Background information concerning the person(s) or organization requesting the grant.
- Description of the scope of the project and explanation of how the grant would improve the quality of care of nursing home or assisted living program residents. Programs must clearly identify whether applying for funding from the nursing home account or assisted living account.
- Description of measures that will be used to quantitatively analyze the impact of the project.
- Timeline and dates by which each phase of the project will be completed and the projected completion date for the entire project.
- Project cost, including specific breakdown of expenses.
- Quarterly reporting to OHCQ on the status of the project and the date by which a final report will be submitted.

At the end of the project, a final report is submitted to the OHCQ outlining the project's accomplishments and findings. Project findings may be shared with trade associations, advocates, and other stakeholders.

## Fiscal Year 2008 Grants Award Cycle

**Carroll County Long Term Care Ombudsman Program:** Project to empower nursing home residents to become advocates within a facility and to enhance their ability to resolve concerns for themselves. The project will enhance residents' knowledge of residents' rights, provide self-advocacy training, and enable residents to act on their own behalf as well as on behalf of the interests of other residents. Awarded: \$10,000.

**Health Facilities Association of Maryland and Maryland LifeSpan:** Support marketing and educational activities of Maryland's Advancing Excellence Campaign. This campaign represents a collective of facilities, advocates and other stakeholders to monitor key indicators of nursing home quality, promote excellence in nursing home care, and acknowledge the critical role nursing home staff have in providing care. Awarded: \$10,000

Grant applications will also be reviewed and considered in October 2007.

## Fund Balance and Collections

As of the end of Fiscal Year 2007, the nursing home State fund balance was \$745,564 and the federal fund balance was \$430,602. Collections for FY 2007, which include civil money penalties assessed and interest earned on the nursing home account, totaled \$101,759 for the federal fund and \$347,615 for the State fund. For the assisted living account, the fund balance, as of the end of Fiscal Year 2007, was \$14,860 and collections totaled \$5,360. This account does not earn interest.

Fiscal Year	Federal or State CMP Grant	Grantee	Award	Purpose
2007	State	Alzheimer's Association and Mental Health Association	\$15,000	Production and Marketing of 8-hour Training Film for Direct Care Workers
	State	Technical Assistance Unit	\$365,640	Technical Assistance, COI Consultative Survey
2006	State	Voices for Quality Care	\$7,000	"Improving the Quality of Long-Term Care in Maryland Through Cultural Change" Conferences
	State	The Beacon Institute	\$4,825	Infection Control Education Program
	State	St. Mary's Nursing Center	\$10,000	"5 Meal a Day Resident Choice Plan"
	State	Baltimore City Commission on Aging and Retirement Education	\$9,500	"Changes in Attitude—Changes in Behavior" pilot training program for nursing home staff
	State	Palliative Medicine Consultants	\$7,980	Development of a palliative care screening tool for nursing homes
	State	National Citizen's Coalition for Nursing Home Reform (NCCNHR)	\$5,000	Family councils and consumer education project
	State	Health Facilities Association of Maryland	\$6,350	Pilot program to enhance training and status of quality improvement coordinators
	State	Technical Assistance Unit	\$403,253	Technical Assistance, COI Consultative Survey
	Federal	Washington County Ombudsman; Mid-Maryland Medical Transport	\$511	Related to Clearview Nursing Home Closure
2005	Federal	Technical Assistance Unit	\$340,784	Technical Assistance, COI Consultative Survey
2004	Federal	DHMH Epidemiology and Disease Control Program	\$6,175	Additional funding for development of infection control course for infection control professionals
	Federal	Beacon Institute	\$85,000	Additional funding for Wellspring Program
	Federal	NCCNHR	\$99,944	Family councils and consumer education project
	Federal	Pets on Wheels	\$8,100	Volunteer initiatives (newsletter, web site, educational event)
	Federal	Technical Assistance Unit	\$308,131	Technical Assistance, COI Consultative Survey
2003	Federal	Beacon Institute	\$225,000	Initial funding for Wellspring Program
	Federal	NCCNHR	\$99,719	Family councils and consumer education project
	Federal	Hospice Network of Maryland	\$3,420	Development of a handbook for hospice in Maryland nursing homes
	Federal	DHMH Epidemiology and Disease Control Program	\$6,175	Development of an infection control course for infection control professionals
2002	State	University of Maryland Baltimore Foundation	\$7,500	Conference on medication errors
	Federal	NCCNHR	\$131,834	Study on the development of Family Councils
2001	Federal	Pets on Wheels	\$51,650	Study on the positive effects of pet visitation on residents in long-term care facilities
2000	Federal	Delmarva Foundation	\$70,254	Study on trauma effects of transferring residents when a facility closes
	Federal	NCCNHR	\$68,871	Study on the development of family councils

*\*Does not include general expenses such as printing for nursing home alerts.*

---

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE  
OFFICE OF HEALTH CARE QUALITY**

Spring Grove Hospital Center  
Bland Bryant Building  
55 Wade Avenue  
Catonsville, Maryland 21228

Phone 1-877-402-8218 • Fax (410) 402-8211

[www.dhmf.state.md.us/ohcq/](http://www.dhmf.state.md.us/ohcq/)

---