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**2022-2023 Grant Year**

**Activity and Resource Catalog**

*Grant Activities September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023*

*Dated: 12/05/2022*

Services funded by the MT Flex Program are only available to Flex-Eligible MT CAHs. To be a Flex-Eligible CAH, hospitals must meet minimum MBQIP data reporting requirements. Related Flex Program Area and/or audience is shown in brackets after the activity name.

Participant Support most often refers reimbursement of registration fees and up to 2 night’s lodging.

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**MEETINGS & NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES**

**MHA Healthcare Conference [Financial & Operational]**

***September 20–23, 2022 – Billings, MT***

The Montana Healthcare Conference is Montana’s largest gathering of healthcare professionals. A partnership between Montana Hospital Association and the Montana Primary Care Association attracts attendees from nearly every hospital and community in Montana. This event takes place in Billings every Fall. MT Flex provides reimbursement of participant support costs (registration and limited lodging) for MT CAH CEOs to attend. For more information about the Montana Healthcare Conference: https://mtha.org/event/2023-montana-healthcare-conference/

**CAH CEO Meetings [Financial & Operational]**

***September 21, 2022 - Billings, MT***

The MT Flex Program convenes CAH CEOs on a regular basis. The CEOs are brought together annually (during Montana Healthcare Conference) and bi-annually in odd years in Helena for educational content that includes updates on Flex programs, input for future programs and activities, and education from subject matter experts. The 2022 CAH CEO meeting will be held September 21 in Billings as a kickoff event to the Healthcare Conference. The next CAH CEO Winter meeting will be in Helena, January 11 & 12, 2023.

**DON/QIC Regional Meetings [Quality]**

***October 2022 – Dates and Locations vary by Region***

The MT Flex Team hits the road every October to meet with Directors of Nursing and Quality Coordinators in each MHA Region. The Regional meetings are no cost to participants and designed so CAH staff can travel to and from in one day. They are hosted by regional critical access hospitals as available. Content includes program updates, information, input for future Flex projects, quality improvement training, and time reserved for “QI Showcases” where peers share what they are doing in their hospitals.

**MHA Health Summit [Quality]**

***April 5-7, 2023 - Helena, MT***

The MHA Health Summit is the premier educational opportunity to jump-start member learning for a new season. This event offers a wide range of topics which include emerging health equity trends; population health and quality improvement best practices, advances in telehealth; rural health transformation; leadership; and much more! MT Flex Program hosts a CAH QIC/DON event and provides reimbursement of participant support costs (registration and limited lodging) for MT CAH to attend. For more information about the MHA Health Summit: https://mtha.org/event/2023-mha-health-summit/

**HFMA/MHIMA Annual Meeting [Financial & Operational]**

***April 2023 – Official dates and location to be determined.***

MT Flex provides participant support reimbursement (registration and limited lodging) for up to 20 CAH staff to attend the Annual Meeting for MT Chapters of Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA) and MT Health Information Management Association (MHIMA). The Annual Meetings are held jointly each year in the spring. Learn more about these groups on their websites at <https://www.hfma.org/chapters/region-10/montana.html> (HFMA) and <https://www.montanahima.net/> (MHIMA).

**DISTANCE EDUCATION**

**Regular Connections**

*Monthly:* Quality Monthly Meet Up – first Thursday of each month.

*On Demand:* Program & Data Orientation Modules: https://mtpin.org/orientations/

**Swing Bed Education Series [Quality]**

MT Flex will provide a 6-part education series for Swing Bed support. Topics include admission and discharge, plans of care, Appendix PP, and more.

**Conditions of Participation Webinar Series [Finance & Operations]**

MT Flex will host two multi-part education series to provide education and support for Critical Access Hospital and Rural Health Clinic staff to prepare for and meet conditions of participation for each.

**Coding & Billing Webinars [Finance & Operations]**

Appropriate coding and billing is essential to a hospital’s financial health. MT Flex provides webinar opportunities and continuing education credits at no cost for CAH staff responsible for coding in the facility to ensure the continual education so that CAHs can have the best impact to their financial health.

**IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

**Cultivating the Roots of Quality Improvement (QI Roots) [Quality]**

MT Flex provides an annual quality improvement workgroup (QI Roots) with a subject matter expert to orient CAH QICs and other staff to healthcare quality improvement basics, project management tools, and team leadership. This program will teach fundamental skills while participants work on a specific project. Participants will choose a project topic in alignment with measures in data programs and then have opportunities to work together in topic cohorts as available. Education sessions and coaching hours are virtual. Costs for this program are split with the MT HQIC to further our efforts in improving operational efficiencies.

**Antibiotic Days of Therapy Tool [Quality]**

MT Flex is working on Antibiotic Stewardship (ABS) in the outpatient setting by supporting the use of the Antibiotic Days of Therapy (DOT) tracking tool. The tool can be found on the PIN Website and is to be submitted to DPHHS on a monthly basis by the 15th of the following month.

**Lean Internship Program with Montana State University (MSU) [Finance & Operations]**

Montana State University Industrial & Management Systems Engineering (IMSE) program in collaboration with the MT Flex Grant selects two students to participate in a summer internship performing Lean Rapid Improvement Events in 8 Critical Access Hospitals across rural Montana. Over each two-week event, students work in conjunction with hospital staff to apply their knowledge of Lean principles and tools towards a pre-determined improvement project within each facility. Applications go out in February.

**Lilypad & POND/ RHC Network Development [Finance & Operations]**

MT Flex Program and MT Office of Rural Health are supporting Rural Health Clinics in participation in the Practice Operations National Database (POND). Participation in POND will provide a nation-wide application to collect cost report data on all rural health clinics that then can be used for reporting, benchmarking and identifying avenues of improvement. In addition to data and reporting, POND platform provides a platform for RHC network development to further improve through best practices, peer group evaluation, shared education and financial improvement.

**Financial & Operational Improvement Project (FOIP) [Finance & Operations]**

Using quality improvement and lean tenets, cohort participants will work through project identification, scope, team facilitation and improvement tools to further financial health and viability metrics. Staff from the Virginia Mason Institute will provide education and coaching to participating CAH finance and revenue cycle staff.

**Strategic Planning Model for a Montana CAH-Centered Balanced Scorecard [Finance & Operations]**

Data is essential to identifying areas to improve and areas to celebrate. MT Flex is collaborating with the National Rural Health Resource Center and Rural Innovations, LLC implement a strategic planning model to develop a MT CAH Balanced Scorecard (BSC) and incumbent measures. The intended audience for the strategic planning BSC model is the CAH leadership team and trustees and for use to compare performance and improvement for the largest to the smallest of Montana’s CAHs. The data provided will come from past Financial & Operational Indicators Improvement projects, data from the Flex Monitoring Team, and national benchmarks.

**CONSULTING & TRAINING**

**Annual Certification Program: Lean Healthcare- Yellow Belt Certification [Quality]**

MT Flex will provide a virtual preparation course for individuals interested in obtaining Lean Yellow Belt Certification in Lean for Healthcare. MT Flex will reimburse coaching fees to CAH staff that complete the course/projects required during the course and complete Yellow Belt Certification. Costs for this program are split with the MT HQIC to further our efforts in improving operational efficiencies.

**Mock Survey [Finance & Operations]**

The MT Flex Program has entered into an agreement with HealthTech to provide Mock Survey services for up to 6 MT Critical Access Hospitals in which a consultant will come on site for approximately three days to perform a Mock Survey to assess CAH readiness to comply with CAH Conditions of Participation. This year, MT Flex will offer one of four mock surveys: CAH, RHC, EOC, and Swing Bed Program. This program is a on a cost-share basis with the hospital where the hospital is responsible for consultant travel costs and the MT Flex Program will pay for consulting fees.

**Survey Self-Assessment Tools [Finance & Operations]**

The MT Flex Program will work with contracted subject matter experts to provide survey self-assessment tools and resources including, but not limited to, a full self-assessment of Appendix W of the CMS CoPs and a list of CMS CoP required policies. These resources will be updated regularly and made available to all Flex-eligible CAHs.

**Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Implementation Plans (IP) [Population Health]**

MT Flex Program provides matching funds for 8 MT CAHs on a rotating basis, to support the Implementation Plan portion of the Community Health Services Development (CHSD) process. CHSD is an IRS Form-990 requirement of most CAHs and is a community health needs assessment process that helps CAHs engage members of their rural community, identify and measure the community’s health needs, recognize potential gaps in healthcare services, and develop specific strategies to prioritize and address the health needs that are identified during the CHSD process. MT Flex collaborates with the Montana Office of Rural Health (MORH) at MSU to provide the CHSD implementation plans to the CAHs in need of the service and costs of the implementation plans are based on a 50/50 cost share between the CAH and the MT Flex Program. Applications open each year in September.

**DATA MONITORING**

**MBQIP [Quality]**

The Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Project (MBQIP) is a quality improvement activity under the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (Flex) grant program. The goal of MBQIP is to continually improve the quality of care provided in small, rural and frontier Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs). MBQIP is a required activity of the MT Flex Grant. To receive benefits from Flex Grant funds MT CAHs will need to meet minimum reporting requirements (see mtpin.org for details). Facilities are required to report on a minimum of 4 core MBQIP measures for 4 consecutive quarters to be eligible for support from MT Flex.

Additional MBQIP measures are not required, but the MT Flex Program will monitor and provide assistance with these measures in collaboration with other national quality programs (ie. HQIC). Participants in the HQIC are currently reporting on the majority of these measures and that data is shared with MT Flex.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Domain** | **Required** | **Additional** |
| Care Transitions | Emergency Department Transfer Communications | Discharge Planning  Swing Bed Care  Medication Reconciliation  Reducing Readmissions |
| Outpatient | AMI Care  ED Throughput | Chest Pain – Aspirin on Arrival  ED Door to Diagnostic Evaluation |
| Patient Engagement | HCAHPS | ED Patient Experience Survey |
| Patient Safety | Healthcare Worker Influenza Immunization  Antibiotic Stewardship | Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI)  Falls  Adverse Drug Events (ADE) |

**Quality Health Indicators (QHi) Data Platform**

The QHiplatform will support data reporting to the PIN Benchmarking Project, Swing Bed Quality Improvement, allow for upload of MBQIP data, and is inclusive of Montana HQIC program data. Hospitals will then have access to a MT Flex designed report as well as the ability to develop their own reports as they see beneficial to their individual facility. This platform will allow for efficiencies and increased meaningfulness among both the facility and the MT Flex Program. Costs for this program are split with the MT HQIC to further our efforts in quality improvement.

**ACTIVITIES FROM MT DPHHS**

The following topics and projects are managed by staff at MT DPHHS with funding from the MT Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant.

Please contact Leslie Howe at LHowe@mt.gov or 406.444.9519 for more details.

Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS) Training

Worksite Wellness

Breastfeeding and Lactation Support

National CARES Registry

**CONNECT WITH US!**

Montana Rural Health Flexibility Grant

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