



Date: November 2, 2015

DQA Memo 15-014
Replaces DQA Memo 13-012

To: [Nursing Homes](#)
Nursing Home Stakeholders

From: Otis Woods, Administrator

**Invitation to Nursing Homes and Nursing Home Stakeholders to Apply for Grants
For Use of Civil Money Penalty (CMP) Funds**

The purpose of this memo is to invite nursing homes and nursing home stakeholders to apply for grants of Civil Money Penalty (CMP) funds to use for projects that will benefit nursing home residents. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) makes CMP funds available to qualified entities to support proposals designed to improve the quality of care and life of persons living in nursing homes.

In November 2009, the Department of Health Services (DHS) formed the Quality Assurance and Improvement (QAI) Committee to review proposals and make recommendations to the Secretary of the Department for awarding CMP funds. CMS has authority through the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to approve the specific use of CMP funds. DHS recommends to CMS projects that are designed to protect the property, health, safety, and welfare of facility residents and that improve the efficiency and cost effectiveness of facility operations so as to improve the quality of life, care, and treatment of its residents.

Project Proposal Categories

Recommended project proposals include, but are not limited to, the categories below:

- Reducing and eliminating psychotropic medication
- Virtual Dementia Program
- Transitions in Care
- Prevention of pressure ulcers
- Improving communication with physicians/training for nurses when they need to contact the physician
- Falls prevention
- Top citations/how to avoid
- Crisis beds serving persons with Alzheimer's or related dementia (Chapter 55 beds)

The Department of Health Services/Division of Quality Assurance (DQA) is especially interested in receiving grant proposals that will benefit residents with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Currently there are 394 nursing homes in Wisconsin serving approximately 26,550 residents. Almost 13,750 or 52% of residents have a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia.

Nursing homes are increasingly challenged to provide a safe, calm environment for residents with Alzheimer's disease or related dementias and reduce reliance on unnecessary psychotropic medication. The Department is encouraging nursing homes and stakeholders to take this opportunity to develop innovative approaches to enhance the quality of life and care for nursing home residents, particularly those with dementia-related behaviors.

Chapter 55, Wis. Stats., crisis beds available within counties have been identified as a significant need. A recent survey of County Adult Protective Services (APS) agencies indicates the following:

- In many counties, the emergency protective placement process is not working well much of the time for persons with dementia exhibiting challenging behaviors, primarily due to a lack of facilities that will accept emergency protective placements for this population. One-fourth of respondents reported the emergency protective placement process in their county "rarely" works well for persons with dementia exhibiting challenging behaviors. Half of respondents said the emergency protective placement process works well only "some of the time" for this population.
- Almost all counties (90%) reported they do not have access to a sufficient number of facilities that will accept emergency protective placements of persons with dementia exhibiting challenging behaviors.
- Out-of-county facilities are used for emergency protective placements primarily because in-county facilities cannot adequately address the challenging behaviors exhibited by individuals with dementia (64%).
- The *Helen E.F.* decision has had a widespread impact on emergency protective placements. Almost 75% of respondents reported that the *Helen E.F.* decision has had an impact on the emergency protective placement process.

Guidelines and Application Information

The DQA developed a website that provides guidance for submitting a grant proposal to the QAI Committee for CMP funds. The website includes information on eligibility requirements, projects that have been approved by the QAI Committee, the Project Proposal application and instructions on how to complete the form.

Nursing homes and stakeholders are encouraged to visit the website at:
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/regulations/qai/introduction.htm>.

Nursing homes, individuals or groups interesting in submitting project proposals to the QAI Committee for consideration for funding should refer to the website above for information and complete the Project Proposal form ([F-00176](#)).

Thank you for your interest. We look forward to receiving project proposals.