Center for Health Information Technology & Innovative Care Delivery

Announcement for Grant Applications

mHealth Round 2

The Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) is seeking grant applications to advance the use of an existing mHealth technology to assist in treating opioid misuse, abuse, and/or dependence among Maryland residents.

Grant ID Number:	**MHCC 17-014**
Issue Date:	**May 2, 2017**
Title:	**Diffusing mHealth Technology for Opioid Treatment**

Application Due: **May 30, 2017**

Application and information on MHCC mHealth grants available at:
mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/home/procurement/procurement.aspx.

Table of Contents

I.   ABOUT THE MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

The Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) is an independent State regulatory agency whose mission is to plan for health system needs, promote informed decision-making, increase accountability, and improve access in a rapidly changing health care environment by providing timely and accurate information on availability, cost, and quality of services to policy makers, purchasers, providers and the public. The Center for Health Information Technology and Innovative Care Delivery (Center) is one of four Centers within MHCC, and is responsible for advancing health information technology (health IT) statewide. The Center's role is to advance a strong, flexible health IT ecosystem that can appropriately support clinical decision-making, reduce redundancy, enable payment reform, and help transform care into a model that leads to continuous improvement of health systems. In addition, the Center fosters health IT innovation in a way that balances the need for information sharing with the need for strong privacy and security policies.

II.   BACKGROUND

The number of deaths nationally from opioid drug overdoses more than tripled between 2000 and 2015.[1] In recent years, Maryland opioid related deaths have seen an increase of 75 percent from 2007 to 2015.[2] In response to this epidemic, Governor Hogan signed a 2015 Executive Order[3] to establish the Heroin and Opioid Emergency Task Force (Task Force) and a separate Inter-Agency Heroin and Opioid Coordinating Council (Council). In 2017, the 2015 Executive Order was amended[4] to authorize the Council to establish the Opioid Operational Command Center, and declared a State of Emergency[5] in response to the heroin, opioid, and fentanyl crisis. The Council worked to implement several recommendations by the Task Force, which included expanding access to treatment, expanding access to care, and boosting overdose prevention efforts, among other things.

Mobile health (mHealth) technology has the potential to enhance care delivery through better access to knowledge and information. In general, use of mHealth technology has increased to facilitate patient education and support data collection due to the ubiquity of mobile communication devices that can be leveraged to deliver health care services.[6] Diffusion of mHealth technology has the ability to support the recommendations of the Task Force in addressing the opioid epidemic in Maryland. Users of mHealth technology are not only shown to be more engaged in their health, but are found to be more compliant with physicians' health care recommendations.[7]

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[1] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Opioid Data Analysis*, February 9, 2017. Available at: www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/data/analysis.html.

[2] Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. *Drug- and Alcohol-Related Intoxication Deaths in Maryland, 2015*, September 2016 – Revised. Available at: bha.dhmh.maryland.gov/OVERDOSE_PREVENTION/Documents/2015%20Annual%20Report_revised.pdf.

[3] Executive Order 01.01.2015.13.

[4] Executive Order 01.01.2017.01.

[5] Executive Order 01.01.2017.02.

[6] The Journal of Systems and Software, Status and trends of mobile-health applications for iOS devices: A developer's perspective.

[7] HiMSS. mHealth App Essentials: Patient Engagement, Considerations, and Implementation, February 20, 2015. Available at: www.himss.org/mhealth-app-essentials-patient-engagement-considerations-and-implementation.

National efforts are underway to use mHealth technology to address the opioid epidemic. In July 2016, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced the winners of the Opioid Recovery App Challenge, which awarded $32,500 to three innovative mobile applications that use evidence based practices to provide opioid recovery support for patients receiving medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorders.[8] In December 2016, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) awarded $40K to the best low-cost, scalable, crowd-sourced mobile application that connects carriers of naloxone, the drug used to treat opioid overdoses, with nearby drug overdoses under the 2016 Naloxone App Competition.[9] The MHCC seeks to advance statewide efforts to support opioid treatment through diffusion of mHealth technology for screening, treatment, and/or recovery of opioid misuse, abuse, or dependence.

III. OVERVIEW

Objective	The MHCC seeks to advance statewide efforts to support opioid treatment through diffusion of mHealth technology.
Applicant Resources	mHealth Grant Announcement is available at: mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/home/procurement/procurement.aspx Attachment A is available here: Attachment A The required Excel attachments are available here: Attachments B-E
Key Dates	Announcement Published: May 2, 2017 Application Deadline*: May 30, 2017 Announcement of Award(s): June 15, 2017 *Deadline – 5 pm (EDT)
Maximum Project Budget	$100,000
Funding Requirements	1. Grant funds are disbursed upon successful completion of milestones 2. 1:1 financial match 3. Match may not include other grant funds
Project Period	18 months
Grant Considerations	1. The project must adhere to current clinical practice guidelines for the screening, treatment and/or recovery of opioid misuse, abuse and/or dependence 2. Grant funds cannot be applied to program startup costs, system development, or system integration with existing electronic health record systems 3. Must include one or more service locations in the State of Maryland 4. Diffusion can be technology agnostic and include multiple applications/devices 5. Grantee must complete a bi-annual survey provided by MHCC 6. The project must detail a sustainability model
Project Modifications	The MHCC may request modifications to projects as part of the award.
FAQs	You can review answers to grant FAQs here.
Contact	For more information and answers to questions, please email justine.springer@maryland.gov or call (410) 764-3777. All questions and responses will be posted and updated weekly on the MHCC Procurement webpage.

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[8] Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Opioid Recovery App Challenge. Available at: samhsaopioidrecoveryapp.devpost.com/.

[9] Food and Drug Administration. *FDA's Naloxone App Prize Competition Celebrates Innovation In Search of Technological Solutions to the Opioid Epidemic*, December 2016. Available at: blogs.fda.gov/fdavoice/index.php/2016/12/fdas-naloxone-app-prize-competition-celebrates-innovation-in-search-of-technological-solutions-to-the-opioid-epidemic/.

IV. APPLICATION REQUEST

The MHCC is issuing this Announcement for Grant Applications (Announcement) to award funding over an 18-month period to one or more qualified entities to advance statewide efforts to support opioid treatment for Maryland residents through diffusion of mHealth technology. The proposed mHealth technology must be used to assist in an opioid intervention for a minimum of 90-days. The applicant must propose how it plans to assess their existing mHealth technology use at baseline, diffusion activities, and utilization in their project proposal. The grant funds will be disbursed based on the grantee's achievement of their milestones. Applicants must identify at least two outcome measures to include in the milestones. Project proposals must describe the process for enrolling patients in the mHealth project. Staff activities can be counted as match funds for mHealth outreach and education.

V. AIMS

The proposal should detail how the applicant will advance the use of mHealth technology to support opioid treatment. The purpose of the project is to address the following aims:

- Technology diffusion;
- Clinical integration; and
- Better patient outcomes.

VI. REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

The applicant must demonstrate meeting the following qualifications:

1. Knowledge and experience in diffusing mHealth technology;
2. Use of an existing mHealth technology to assist in treating opioid misuse, abuse, and/or dependence;
3. Ability to provide information on current diffusion and efficacy of the proposed mHealth technology;
4. Ability to track, report, and attest to utilization as defined by the applicant;
5. Completion of a bi-annual[10] survey provided by MHCC to assess efficacy in areas that include, but are not limited to, clinical, technical, user acceptance, and financial;
6. Knowledge of and adherence to clinical practices regarding opioid treatment;
7. Proof of a partnership relationship between all participating organizations;
8. Secure a 1:1 financial match. Other grant funds cannot be used as a match; and
9. The ability to sustain the program at the conclusion of the grant period.

VII. STAFFING AND PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS

An applicant may propose to augment or revise the following list of required personnel.

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[10] Bi-annual is twice per year for this grant announcement.

Labor Categories	Description
Project Manager	A senior level individual that will coordinate all aspects of the work and take responsibility for reporting on progress and ensuring completion the surveys.
Technical Manager	A management level individual with experience in managing mHealth technology diffusion that can ensure staff training and manage reporting on utilization of the mHealth technology in the target population.
Clinical or Public Health Consultant	A qualified clinical or public health professional with experience in screening, treatment and/or recovery for opioid misuse, abuse, or/and dependence that will provide consultation to the Technical Manager to increase the effectiveness of the use of mHealth technology and to the Project Manager for the reporting of efficacy.

VIII. REQUIREMENTS

A. Requirements for the Application:

1. Scope of work and strategy (Limit to 15 pages):

This section describes how the applicant plans to advance the use of an existing mHealth technology to assist with screening, treatment and/or recovery of opioid misuse, abuse, or/and dependence among Maryland residents. This section should include a concise and detailed description of the scope, breadth, and plans/approach for completing each task outlined below, *including how the applicant plans to complete the tasks to the highest level of quality and in a timely manner*.

    a. Project Description:

        i. Description of the mHealth technology to be diffused and how it meets the following requirements:

            a. Utilizes Health Information Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliant mobile technology (i.e., smartphones, tablets, wearable devices) and/or mobile applications for health care or population health services;

            b. Adheres to current clinical practice for screening, treatment, and/or recovery services for opioid misuse, , abuse, or/and dependence; and

            c. Has evidence to support its efficacy in the screening, treating, and/or providing recovery services for opioid misuse, abuse, and/or dependence, which can include:

                i. Published results; and/or

                ii. Pilot project results.

        ii. Current utilization of the mHealth technology, including location(s) and population, in the following:

     a. In Maryland; and

     b. Nationally.

   iii. A definition of utilization for the mHealth technology that aligns with VIII.A.1.a.i of this announcement and how this will be measured over a 90-day period;

 b. Project Plan:

  i. Deployment strategy, which includes the following:

    a. Demographic information, including:

     i. Target population;

     ii. Location;

     iii. Information for how the use case meets the need of the target population.

    b. Partnering organizations; and

    c. Timeline.

  ii. Method for measuring utilization for a 90-day period as defined in Section VIII.A.1.a.iii of this Announcement, with progress to be reported to MHCC quarterly, and attested to prior to monies being paid.

  iii. Demonstration of a method to collect survey[11] data as outlined in Section VI.5 of this Announcement.

c. Applicant qualifications (Limit to 1 of 15 pages in Scope of Work):

Describe the qualifications of the organization(s) that will be participating in the tasks under the grant. Include all participating organizations' experience in performing work specifically related to diffusion and utilization of mHealth technology to assist with screening, treatment and/or recovery of opioid misuse, abuse, and/or dependence.

d. Experience and qualifications of the proposed staff (Limit to 1 of 15 pages in Scope of Work):

Describe the experience and qualifications of the proposed staff in diffusing the mHealth technology for screening, treatment and/or recovery of opioid misuse, abuse, or dependence. The grant applicant must demonstrate how its proposed staffing model meets the staffing requirements and required personnel described under Section VII of this Announcement and, if applicable, as augmented and/or revised by the applicant. Other essential staff, their roles in the project, and their relevant qualifications should be identified.

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[11] Survey will be provided by MHCC.

e. Role of Sub-awardees:

Sub-awardees, if any, must be identified. Provide a detailed description of their contributing role(s) relative to the requirements.

2. Letters of Commitment: Letters of commitment to work on the project from personnel from each partnering organization must also be included in the application. The letters of commitment should contain a brief description, approximately one paragraph, of the work to be performed for the project by that organization.

3. Financial information: Funds will be disbursed based upon attestation of the milestones. Applicants must indicate the requested amount and identify their match funds and activities in Attachment D.

4. Proof of partnership relationship: Proof of such relationship between all participating organizations must be included in writing.

5. Resumes: An individual resume or detailed biography for each of the personnel who will be assigned to the project if the applicant is selected.

6. Privacy and Security: Provide supporting documentation of HIPAA compliance for all mHealth technology described in Section VIII.A.1.a.i.a of this Announcement. Include a plan for how human subjects and their related health data will be protected, if applicable.

7. Disclosure: Applicant must disclose any substandard quality of care level deficiencies, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) admissions bans, and note any outstanding health and safety violations.

8. Termination Clause: Applicants must acknowledge the termination clause outlined in Section XII of this Announcement.

9. Attachments: The applicant must submit the following required attachments. Attachments can be found at: mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/home/procurement/procurement.aspx.

   a. Complete Attachment A with the applicant information.

   b. Complete Attachment B information on current utilization, target utilizers, and proposed utilization milestones[12].

   c. Complete Attachment C for the measurements for utilization and outcomes, that are clear, verifiable, and in line with the project goals.

   d. Complete Attachment D for the financial proposal information as outlined in Section VIII.A.3 of this Announcement.

10. Demonstration of Technology: Applicant must be prepared to demonstrate, if requested by MHCC, the mHealth technology or related technologies it proposes to diffuse as part of the project.

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[12] Utilization milestones are target number of new users per quarter.

B. **Requirements to receive milestone payments:**

1. Participate in a kick-off meeting with MHCC staff;

2. Submit quarterly reports detailing progress toward meeting the established milestones;

3. Participate in monthly meetings with MHCC to discuss progress toward meeting the project goals;

4. Participate in educational events, meetings, or webinars to showcase and/or demonstrate the work of the project, as requested by MHCC;

5. Provide an attestation of utilizers of the mHealth technology for a 90-day period in line with the milestone requirements in Section VIII.A.1.b.ii of this Announcement;

6. Collect and submit an interim assessment survey[13] data to assess preliminarily efficacy;

7. Submit all documentation for milestone payments with invoices;

8. In order to receive the final payment, the organization must submit a final assessment survey[14] data as outlined in Section VI.5 of this Announcement.

C. **Change in Scope Request:**

If a grantee is interested in making changes to their project that differs from what is stated in their original application, a change of scope request with justification must be submitted in writing by the grantee to MHCC for consideration. The MHCC will approve requests at its discretion.

IX.   KEY TASKS & DUE DATES

Tasks	Date
Award(s)	
Announcement Published	5/2/2017
Application Due	5/30/2017
Notification to Applicants/Award(s) Announced	6/15/2017
Grant Tasks	
Begin project	6/16/2017
Monthly calls and progress report	Starting 7/2017
Survey	
Bi-Annually	Starting 12/2017

Note: Grant tasks/due dates are tentative and subject to change at the discretion of MHCC, after discussion with the awardee, and are not listed within the table in any particular order.

X.   TERM OF GRANT

The grant begins on or about **June 16, 2017** and will end **18 months after the grant award date.** Grant funds will be disbursed upon completion of each milestone and review of documentation by MHCC. Awardee must complete an invoice on the MHCC invoice template

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[13] Survey will be provided by MHCC.
[14] Survey will be provided by MHCC.

([Attachment E](#)), and must include a description of the completed tasks, the date and the time period billed for, and supporting documentation for requested funds. All documentation included must be to the satisfaction of MHCC for reimbursement approval. The match contribution within each reimbursement request must reflect a 1:1 match for that time period. No grant funds are paid towards startup costs, technology, and integration with electronic health record systems. Documentation for any final payment must be submitted no later than the 15th of the month after the grant ends or the end date of an authorized extension of the grant period.

If it becomes necessary to revise this announcement for grant applications before the due date for applications, amendments will be announced on MHCC's website. Multiple and/or alternate applications will not be accepted. The MHCC will not be responsible for any costs incurred by an applicant in preparing and submitting an application or in performing any other activities relative to this grant announcement. The MHCC reserves the right to cancel this announcement for grant applications, to accept, or reject any and all applications (in whole or in part) received in response to this announcement for grant applications, to waive or permit cure of minor irregularities, to request additional information or modification to an application, and to conduct discussions with all qualified or potentially qualified grant applicants in any manner necessary to serve the best interests of MHCC and to accomplish the goals of this grant announcement.

Prior to an entity conducting business in the State, it must be registered with the Department of Assessments and Taxation, State Office Building, Room 803, 301 West Preston Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201. It is strongly recommended that any potential applicant complete registration prior to the due date for receipt of applications.

XI.   **HOW TO APPLY**

Complete an application that meets the requirements as outlined in Section VIII of this Announcement. [An outline](#) for the application structure is available on MHCC's procurement site at [mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/home/procurement/procurement.aspx](#).

Grant applications are due to MHCC by 5:00 pm Eastern Daylight Time on Tuesday, **May 30, 2017**. An application and completed cover page ([Attachment A](#)) must be submitted via email to [christine.karayinopulos.@maryland.gov](#).

All questions regarding this announcement for grant applications should be submitted via email to [justine.springer@maryland.gov](#); all questions and responses will be posted on MHCC's procurement site at [mhcc.maryland.gov/mhcc/pages/home/procurement/procurement.aspx.](#)

XII. **CONDITIONS OF AN AWARD**

In the event that MHCC determines that an awardee is not complying with the grant terms and requirements set forth in this application, MHCC may take one or more enforcement actions. These range from actions designed to allow the awardee to take corrective action, such as withholding payment or temporarily suspending an award, disallowing costs, recouping payments made, or terminating an award. Different processes apply depending on the type of enforcement action. If an enforcement action is planned, MHCC will notify the awardee via email and indicate the effect of the action. Additionally, MHCC may authorize a no-cost extension of the grant period in the event that more time is needed to demonstrate project objects. Awardees are required to notify MHCC prior to referencing any grant-related activities in statements to the media regarding work related to the grant. *Applicants are required to acknowledge the conditions*

of an award in their grant application.

MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES AND SMALL BUSINESSES

ARE ENCOURAGED TO RESPOND TO THIS GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT