

Dear Colleague:

On November 14, 2011, the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation (Innovation Center) at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced the [Health Care Innovation Challenge](#) (Innovation Challenge), an exciting new initiative designed to test a wide range of innovations in communities across the country, seeking to accelerate system-wide health care transformation across the nation. This initiative will fund up to \$1 billion in cooperative agreements to support a broad spectrum of alternative models of health care payment, delivery, and workforce utilization that deliver better health care, better health, and lower cost for beneficiaries of Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

As you might anticipate, the Innovation Center expects to receive a large number of applications and will need to have a large number of reviewers to participate in the application review panel process. **I am reaching out to solicit you and any of your colleagues to consider our request and identify potential interested reviewers to participate. The Innovation Center would like to receive all names by January 31, 2012.**

Reviewers for application review panels will be selected and trained over the first two weeks of February. The actual review process will begin on February 21, 2012. We anticipate that reviewers will likely review, evaluate, and score an estimated 10-12 applications during the review panel process.

The anticipated Review Schedule is as follows:

- February 16 or 17 – Attend one mandatory training conference call session (2 hours)
- February 21 – Applications available in the ARM system
- February 21 – 29 – Remote Review Paneling (includes reading and paneling days)

Awardees for the Innovation Challenge will be selected from those proposals ranked highly by review panels.

In return for your full commitment as a reviewer, we will be offering an honorarium of \$500 to non-Federal employees who fully participate through the entire process. Reviewers will be expected to disclose any conflicts of interests and are individually responsible for evaluating their own affiliations and financial interest, and those of their close relatives and professional associates that relate to their duties as reviewers before they review any applications.

We intend to make the review process as convenient as possible, with all facets of the review process administered remotely via e-mail, the Internet, and conference calls

Individuals who demonstrate interest as reviewers will be subsequently contacted by an external contractor (Grant Solutions) who is helping the Innovation Center to organize the review panel process. At that time, reviewers may be asked specific information about health care background/expertise to guide the Innovation Center in selecting a final group of reviewers for the Innovation Challenge.

In order to submit names, please fill out the attached excel form which also has instructions on how to send the completed form to the contractor. If you have any questions, please contact CMMI@grantreview.org

Thank you

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