

September 10, 2013

ADVISORY

Essential Policy & Regulation Updates

MASSACHUSETTS HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

M H A



Action Needed -- October 1 Deadline

To: Member CEOs (CC's Below):

QUICK SUMMARY

- Chapter 224, the state's healthcare cost containment legislation, created "The HealthCare Workforce Transformation Fund."
- The fund will support a wide variety of education and training strategies intended to address workforce challenges that occur as a result of the requirements of implementing Chap. 224.
- The fund is administered by the Secretary of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, but the grant program – the rules, applications, follow-up, etc. – is administered by Commonwealth Corporation.
- Applications for funding begin on a rolling basis on October 1, 2013, and end either on June 1, 2014 or when the \$1 million funding for the initiative is exhausted – whichever comes first.
- Healthcare employers (such as hospitals) with operations in Massachusetts, or healthcare businesses, are encouraged to apply for this first round of grants that begin at \$15,000 and will not exceed \$50,000. A series of implementation grants (of up to \$250,000) will follow in January 2014.
- This [Request for Proposals](#) for the Healthcare Workforce Transformation Fund Planning Grant contains all of the details applicants need to apply. ■

THE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE TRANSFORMATION FUND

Among the many workforce-focused elements of Chapter 224, the law created the Healthcare Workforce Transformation Fund to, among other things:

- (1) support the development and implementation of programs to enhance health care worker retention rates;
- (2) address critical health care workforce shortages;
- (3) improve employment in the health care industry for low-income individuals and low-wage workers;
- (4) provide training, educational, or career ladder services for currently employed or unemployed health care workers who are seeking new positions or responsibilities within the health care industry;
- (5) provide training or educational services for health care workers in emerging fields of care delivery models.

The fund, through the administration of the Commonwealth Corporation is now accepting proposals from eligible applicants, including hospitals.

Details on the rolling deadlines follow:

Deadline for Submission	Decisions Announced	Contract Begins	Contract Ends
October 1, 2013	January 2014	February 2014	May 2014
December 1, 2013	February 2014	March 2014	June 2014
January 1, 2014	March 2014	April 2014	July 2014
February 1, 2014	April 2014	May 2014	August 2014
March 1, 2014	May 2014	June 2014	September 2014
April 1, 2014	June 2014	July 2014	October 2014
May 1, 2014	July 2014	August 2014	November 2014
June 1, 2014	August 2014	September 2014	December 2014

The RFP document in the Quick Summary above contains the details of how to apply for the funding, what program deliverables and reporting requirements are expected from applicants, the technical assistance available, and more.

For more information, contact **Karen J. Shack**, Commonwealth Corporation, at kshack@commcorp.org or (617) 717-6930. ■

CC:

**Chief Operating Officers; V.P./Directors, Human Resources;
V.P./Directors, Nursing; Director, PHO**

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