



# a·H·Informer

A news update from Adirondack Health Institute

December 13, 2018

## News Headlines

### Fourth Round of AHI PPS Innovation Funding Underway

DSRIP Innovation Fund Round IV is now open for AHI PPS partners. As was the case for Round III, projects must be innovative in nature and involve multiple partners, including a safety-net provider serving as project lead. Projects must have a

strong alignment with pay-for-performance metrics, and preference will be given to those deemed to have a greater chance of a positive, far-reaching impact. Replicability and sustainability are other key components to be considered. Applications are only being accepted using an online form on the AHI website. Click below to learn more and access the application, budget workbook, a FAQ sheet, scoring matrix, and scoring instructions. Questions, including ascertaining an organization's safety-net status, may be submitted to [dsripahi@ahihealth.org](mailto:dsripahi@ahihealth.org).



[Click here to learn more and access the online application.](#)

### Practice Innovation Solutions Team Provides Assistance to Physician Practices Seeking Quality Recognition

AHI's Practice Innovation Solutions team provides free technical assistance to physician practices interested in achieving NCQA New York State Patient-Centered Medical Home (NYS PCMH) quality recognition and preparing for major payment changes. Watch the video below and visit the [Practice Innovation Solutions](#) website to learn more. Contact the team today at [innovate@ahihealth.org](mailto:innovate@ahihealth.org), or 833.242.0336 to begin the recognition achievement process.



## Partner Success Stories

### New Coalition to Target Prediabetes Risk

The [North Country Healthy Heart Network](#) has been awarded a five-year grant from the New York State Office of Rural Health to replicate a successful diabetes prevention program throughout Clinton, Essex, and Franklin counties. The funding will support the Heart Network's newly-formed North



*North Country*  
HEALTHY HEART  
NETWORK, INC.

Country Chronic Disease Prevention Coalition as it works with primary care providers to increase identification of people at risk for prediabetes. "The ultimate goal of this work is to establish systems of care that keep people healthy, which in turn saves the health system money on treatment of chronic disease," said Heart Network Executive Director Ann Morgan. Coalition members include [Adirondack Health](#), [Adirondacks ACO](#), [Adirondack Health Institute](#), [Clinton County Health Department](#), [Essex County Health Department](#), [Franklin County Public Health](#), [Hixny](#), [UVM Health Network - Champlain Valley Physicians Hospital](#), [UVM Health Network - Alice Hyde Medical Center](#), and [UVM Health Network - Elizabethtown Community Hospital](#).

[Click here to read the Press-Republican article.](#)

### Essex County Broadens Access to Fresh Local Foods



Essex County has secured a grant from Adirondack Health Institute to improve access to fresh local foods. The "*Well-Fed Essex*" program aims to bring on board health care organizations, community-based educators, farmers, retailers, and food pantries to innovatively integrate existing services. "It (the program) will get healthier foods into the hands of our residents," said Jessica Darney Buehler, Essex County Health Educator.

[Click here to read the Sun Community News article.](#)

### Alliance for Positive Health Implements Cultural Competency and Health Literacy Best Practices

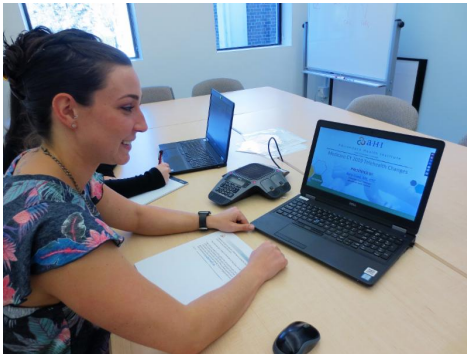
Collaborating with the AHl PPS, the [Alliance for Positive Health](#) has

created a Cultural Competency and Health Literacy (CCHL) Task Force charged with instituting best practices. The group, comprised of 15 staff members, has embarked on a number of initiatives to ensure the agency is continually working to improve its level of cultural competency and health literacy for their clients, staff, and stakeholders. According to Mercedes Arrillaga, Program Manager - Population Health, the team has developed a CCHL mission statement, translated multiple commonly-used forms into Spanish, improved signage to be more welcoming, created a site checklist to identify areas for process improvement, convened a panel forum involving experts in the field, and conducted CCHL staff training.



## Training Sessions, Meetings and Events

### Medicare Telehealth Webinar Available on HealthStream



The AHJ Telehealth program earlier this week hosted a webinar, *Medicare Telehealth Changes for 2019*. Among other topics, AHJ Telehealth Project Manager Katy Cook (pictured) covered the present state of telehealth under the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), usage trends for Medicare beneficiaries, and recent changes to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. Impressively, the 100-participant-maximum event reached full capacity in five hours. AHJ PPS partners may view the webinar recording on [HealthStream](#). If you're a partner who needs help setting up a free account,

contact Chelsea Truehart at [ctruehart@ahihealth.org](mailto:ctruehart@ahihealth.org), or 518.480.0111, ext. 310.

[Visit HealthStream to view the webinar recording.](#)

[AHJ's North Country Population Health Improvement Program \(NC PHIP\)](#) is



holding a rescheduled stakeholder meeting, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 18, at the Golden Arrow Lakeside Resort, Lake Placid. The meeting will feature discussions on program and partner achievements, and proposed plans for 2019.

[Click here to register.](#)

The inaugural VBP Forward Conference is being held February 20-21, 2019, in Buffalo. The event will explore the next generation of value-based payment and is geared for organizations outside of acute care that serve Medicaid and Medicare special needs or complex populations, or have an interest in that value chain.



[Click here to learn more.](#)


## Other News and Information

### Cancer Screening Saves Lives

The Cancer Services Program (CSP) provides breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screenings at no charge to women 40-64 and men 50-64 who do not have health insurance. Available cancer screening services include clinical breast exams and mammograms for breast cancer; pelvic exams and PAP tests for

**Cancer Screening Saves Lives!**  
Get Connected to the  
**Cancer Services Program**

**Cancer Screenings at NO COST to You**



**NEW YORK STATE**  
**Cancer Services Program**  
A Program of the Department of Health

cervical cancer; and colonoscopies and FIT kits (an easy take-home test) for colorectal cancer. If screening tests find something abnormal, diagnostic services are available through the CSP at no cost. The Cancer Services Program of Warren, Washington and Hamilton Counties works with many doctors in the area. If you are interested in getting cancer screening, call the program at 518.926.6570.

Warren, Washington and Hamilton Counties   
**Cancer Services Program**  
Your partner for cancer screening, support and information

**Submit Your Content**

AHI partners in Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Saratoga, St. Lawrence, Warren, and Washington counties are encouraged to submit content to Phil Kahn at [communications@ahihealth.org](mailto:communications@ahihealth.org) to be considered for inclusion in *AHI Informer*.

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