



New AHRQ grant opportunities for medical liability and patient safety initiatives

The federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has announced new funding opportunities for Patient Safety and Medical Liability Reform Demonstration and Planning Projects in 2011. ([Demonstration Grants](#) and [Planning Grants](#)) Given the current lack of a Congressionally-approved budget for FY2011, it is unclear if these new monies will be available in 2011. However, due to their grant application cycle, AHRQ is issuing this request for applications at this time to ensure that entities can qualify for funding in 2011, pending approval of an FY2011 budget by Congress.

According to AHRQ, because of the large response to the initial Request for Applications (RFAs) earlier this year, AHRQ has released new Program Announcements for organizations to apply for funding during the FY2011. Further, AHRQ wanted to issue these as Program Announcements for on-going funding opportunities rather than as a one time only offering. While these new announcements are related to the initial MLR/patient safety grants awarded earlier this year, these are new funding opportunities not tied to the previous RFAs.

While these announcements are very similar to the first two RFAs, AHRQ did make a few changes including the eligibility requirements, which are more flexible in who can apply. In the first two RFAs only health systems and states could apply. AHRQ has broadened the scope to have other organizations serve as possible applicants, as long as they are non-profit organizations. However, state and health systems must be directly involved in the project as partners. Therefore, state medical associations and national medical specialty societies can directly apply, as long as they are collaborating with multiple stakeholders.

The Demonstration grants are intended to allow applicants to seek up to \$1 million for a one year timeframe, and the grant may be renewable up to three years. The Planning grants are intended to be for up to \$300,000 for a one year timeframe. They both must focus on:

- Putting patient safety first and working to reduce preventable injuries;
- Fostering better communication between doctors and their patients;
- Ensuring that patients are compensated in a fair and timely manner for medical injuries, while also reducing the incidence of frivolous lawsuits; and
- Reducing liability premiums.

Applications for the Demonstration grants will be accepted on December 25, 2010, and there will be a rolling application process for these Demonstration grants to be considered on an ongoing basis. However to receive funding for 2011, applications should be

received by January 25, 2011. Applications for the Planning grants will be accepted beginning on January 16, 2011, and there will be a rolling application process for these Planning grants to be considered on an ongoing basis. However, to receive funding for 2011, applications should be received by February 16, 2011.

For more information, contact Mike Glasstetter at 312-464-5033 or michael.glasstetter@ama-assn.org. Also, if your state medical association or national medical specialty society is involved in an application for these grants, we urge you to continue checking the [AHRQ Web site](#) for further updates - especially with the due dates.