

## **Contract Solicitation: Consulting Services for Implementation of CHIPRA Quality Assurance Standards**

### **Background**

On February 4, 2009, President Obama signed into law the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 (CHIPRA), Public Law 111-3. CHIPRA reauthorized the Children's Health Insurance Program under Title XXI of the Social Security Act. CHIPRA requires Quality Assurance Standards in State CHIPs which include two components:

#### ***1932(c)(1) – Quality Strategy***

All State CHIPs that contract with managed care organizations (MCOs) are required to develop and implement a Quality Assessment and Improvement Strategy. The Quality Strategy must address access to care standards, and other measures of care and service related to quality such as grievance procedures, marketing information standards, monitoring procedures, and a process for periodic revision of the strategy.

#### ***1932(c)(2) – External Quality Review (EQR)***

This section requires that a contract between a MCO and a State CHIP include an annual external review of the quality of care provided by the MCO. This review must be conducted by a qualified and independent external quality review organization (EQRO). The results of these reviews must be conducted in accordance with protocols developed by CMS. The EQRO produces a detailed technical report that describes the manner in which the data from all activities were aggregated and analyzed, and conclusions drawn as to the quality, timeliness, and access to the care furnished by the MCO.

### **Project Description**

MRMIB received a grant from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation that will be matched with federal funds to contract with a vendor to assist the State to implement the required Quality Assurance Standards described above. The total amount available is \$134,000. The specific projects the vendor will undertake are:

- Developing a Quality Assessment and Improvement Strategy for the Healthy Families Program; and
- Developing a solicitation for, and assisting with the process of, contracting with an External Quality Review Organization (EQRO) and examining plan costs to comply with EQRO requirements.

### **Proposal Process**

The proposals will be evaluated based on:

- the proposer's background and experience in strategic planning and project management;
- the level of understanding of the principles and practices of quality improvement;

- the proposed approach and methodology for key tasks including understanding the issues and requirements of CMS as they pertain to CHIPRA Quality Assurance Standards;
- the timeline for completing the work; and
- the cost-effectiveness of the proposal.

### **Timeframe**

MRMIB staff anticipate posting the solicitation on the MRMIB website in the next week or so. Proposals are scheduled to be due to MRMIB on April 8, 2010 and the contract start date is projected for June 1, 2010.

The project will occur over a 12-month period beginning June 1, 2010 through May 30, 2011. Staff anticipate bringing the EQRO solicitation to the Board in the first quarter of 2011 and the Quality Assessment and Improvement Strategy in June 2011.

### **MRMIB Contact**

For more information, please contact Muhammad Nawaz, Research Manager at (916) 324-7444 or by e-mail at [mnawaz@mrmib.ca.gov](mailto:mnawaz@mrmib.ca.gov).