<u>**Montgomery County Primary Care and Dental Grant Program FAQ**</u>

What is the Montgomery County Primary Care and Dental Grant Program?

The "Montgomery County Primary Care and Dental Grant Program," was created by The Montgomery County Council appropriation of CARES Act funds for a competitive grant program for independent primary care medical and general dentistry practices based in Montgomery County to respond to lost revenue and costs related to re-opening their practices during the COVID-19 public health state of emergency.

How much might my business be eligible for?

Practices are eligible to receive funding for documented financial losses due to COVID-19, up to the maximum allowable amount. The appropriation language states that "the maximum grant to any one practice must be $60,000.

When will applications be accepted?

The application portal will open on November 18th and be available until November 29th at 11:59 PM.

When will grantees be notified of an award?

Grantees will be notified by December 30th, 2020

What types of providers are eligible for the Montgomery County Primary Care and Dental Grant program?

A business must be either a Primary Care Medical or General Dentistry practice with at least 75% of its licensed practitioners meeting the below criteria as either a Primary Care Provider or General Dentist.

What defines a Primary Care Provider?

A Primary Care Provider means a duly licensed physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, and/or certified nurse midwife (collectively referred to as Providers) who is primarily responsible for the overall healthcare needs of a patient, and who coordinates the ongoing care of the patient with other practitioners, including referrals to specialists. Primary Care Providers include those who practice in the following specialties: General Medicine, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, Geriatrics, Obstetrics/Gynecology, and Preventative Medicine.

What defines a General Dentistry Dentist?

A General Dentist is a duly licensed doctor of dental medicine (DMD) or dental surgery (DDS) who is responsible for the overall, routine oral health of a patient, and who coordinates the oral healthcare needs of the patient with other practitioners, including referrals to specialists. The general dentistry practice, which may include pediatric services, encompasses the treatment of oral diseases, disorders and/or conditions of the oral cavity and associated structures. General dentistry does not include practices that primarily perform specialty dental services such as endodontics, orthodontics, or oral surgery.

Are multi-specialty practices which include eligible providers able to apply?

Multi-specialty practice are eligible, as long as 75% of a practice's licensed practitioners meet the criteria to be considered either Primary Care or General Dentistry.

What type of Primary Care Medical or General Dentistry practice is eligible?

The practice must be "independent" at the time of application and intend to remain "independent" for at least six (6) months from the date of filing this application. A practice must also have one or more offices located in Montgomery County that is primarily used for treating patients.

What is the definition of "independent"?

An independent Primary Care Medical or General Dentistry practice means am individual or group of provider(s) or dentist(s) who own a majority (greater than 50%) of the medical or dental practice and retain key decision-making rights for the practice.

A Primary Care Medical practice can be a member of an Accountable Care Organization, Independent Physician Association, Clinically Integrated Network, or participate in the Maryland Primary Care Program but cannot be financially supported or owned by a commercial organization or entity (i.e. partner or participating member of large anchor organization, receive financial stipends as contracted, and/or administrative services supported by an outside organization) . A practice cannot be a part of a Management Services Organization (MSO) or a part of a single TIN (Tax Identification Number) group. Concierge practices, direct primary care, or their functional equivalents in which a practice collects annual fees or retainers from patients in exchange for physician access, are not eligible.

A General Dentistry Practice cannot be financially supported or owned by a commercial organization or entity (i.e. partner or participating member of large anchor organization, receive financial stipends as contracted, and/or administrative services supported by an outside organization). A practice cannot be a part of a Management Services Organization (MSO), Dental Support Organization (DSO), or a part of a single TIN (Tax Identification Number) group.

Are there additional eligibility requirements?

Yes, your practice must also meet the following requirements:

- Practice must be in Good Standing with the State of Maryland at the time of application. You can verify your standing by taking the following steps:
  1. Go to Maryland Business Express
  2. In the "Business Quick Links" section, select "Business Entity Search".
  3. Enter your business name and select "Search".
  4. Your business will be listed if you are registered.
  5. Select your business and check under the General Information tab to verify that your business is in Good Standing.
- Licensed practitioners currently providing services through your practice may not have been:
  1. Excluded, debarred, or sanctioned by any federal or state healthcare program

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2. Subject to any disciplinary action by any state or federal licensing or regulatory board or agency which resulted in the suspension, limitation or loss of license

What if the applicant has practice locations outside of Montgomery County?
Practices with multiple locations are eligible for the program if they have at one or more offices located in Montgomery County that are primarily used for treating patients. Grant amounts are intended to cover operating losses at Montgomery County practice locations only.

What documentation will I need to apply?
You will need to include the following in your grant application:
- A list of all licensed Providers and Dentists currently providing services through your practice, including Maryland State License number, individual NPI number, and FTE for each.
- Financial revenue, expense and appointment information for 2019 and 2020 through October. Back-up documentation required includes 2019 federal profit or loss income tax filings and EMR/Practice Operations software reporting. For practices with locations outside of Montgomery County, this information can be provided for all locations or Montgomery County locations only (the latter is preferred).
- EMR/Practice Operations software reporting to document evidence of the percent of your patient population that belongs to groups disproportionately impacted by COVID or with healthcare access challenges. (Chart audit review may be substituted if needed)

How are patient populations that belong to groups disproportionately impacted by COVID or with healthcare access challenges defined?

Practices that serve a high percentage of patients in the following categories will be prioritized for funding:

- Reside in the ten County zip codes most impacted by COVID-19 (20906, 20902, 20904, 20877, 20903, 20874, 20886, 20901, 20850, and 20878)
- Are of a racial or ethnic minority disproportionately impacted by COVID-19
- Experience health care access challenges due to disability or language barriers
- Are uninsured or eligible for Medicaid
- Are 60 y.o. or older

Is a practice eligible to apply if it has previously received financial support via another local, state or federal COVID-19 assistance program?

Yes, although a practice must include revenue from these support programs in financial information used to determine grant amount eligibility and must continue to show financial loss (compared to 2019) while including these revenues.

What is the program defined start date of COVID-19?

Friday, March 13, 2020

Do I have to provide my banking information now or can I add it once it is approved?
Banking information must be added at the time of application.

Who can I talk with if I have questions?

Please email grants@primarycarecoalition.org or message us in the application portal.