

## State at a Glance: Florida

### Overview

In February 2010, the [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services \(CMS\)](#) awarded grants to 10 States under a 5-year, \$100 million effort to improve health care quality and delivery systems for children enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Funded by the [Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 \(CHIPRA\)](#), the [Quality Demonstration Grant Program](#) aims to identify effective, replicable strategies for enhancing quality of care for children. Because some grantee States are partnering with other States, the grants will support the implementation and evaluation of quality improvement strategies for children in a total of 18 States under five broad categories.<sup>1</sup>

As one of the 10 grantees, Florida is working with **Illinois** in a two-State partnership to implement projects in four of the five grant categories:

- Showing how a core set of children's quality measures can be used to improve quality of care for children.
- Promoting the use of health information technology (IT) to enhance service quality and care coordination.
- Implementing a more comprehensive provider-based model of service delivery.
- Testing an approach to quality improvement of the State's own design.

### Florida's Objectives

Florida is working to collect, aggregate, and report measures of children's health quality using multiple existing data sources from various children's programs across State agencies. The State will ensure that ongoing statewide health information exchange (HIE) and health IT efforts support the goal of improving child health quality and enhance provider-based systems of care. In addition, Florida will work with 20 child-serving practice sites to implement practice redesigns and strengthen their medical home features, particularly for children with special health care needs. In conjunction with Illinois, Florida will support collaborative quality improvement projects to improve birth outcomes.

#### *Working with the Initial Core Set of Children's Quality Measures*

Florida will collect, assess, and report on the quality measures four times during the project, with the goal of creating a single process to link all data needed to generate these measures for different delivery systems and subpopulations.

---

<sup>1</sup> The five categories are projects that (1) show how a core set of children's quality measures can be used to improve quality of care for children, (2) promote the use of health information technology to enhance service quality and care coordination, (3) implement new or more comprehensive provider-based models of service delivery, (4) demonstrate the impact of a model electronic health record format for children, and (5) test an approach to quality improvement of a State's own design.

### *Using Health IT to Improve Child Health Care Quality*

Florida will collaborate with ongoing statewide HIE and health IT development efforts to ensure that these efforts address children's health issues and support efforts for electronic health record (EHR) adoption and broader health IT capacity. Under this category, activities will be statewide, with a long-term goal of linking providers to HIE through their EHRs.

### *Assessing a Provider- Based Model of Care*

Florida will support implementation of enhanced medical homes through training and technical assistance for practice redesign, creation of a learning collaborative and referral and coordination networks, and integration of health IT applications. The project will be implemented in 20 intervention practices.

### *Testing an Approach to Quality Improvement of Florida's Own Design*

This project's activities will be conducted through an existing public-private partnership, the [Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative](#), which is focused on population-based, data-driven perinatal quality improvement. Florida convened and coordinated numerous stakeholders working on perinatal care in Florida, creating a forum for sharing data, experiences from past initiatives, and new ideas to address problems in birth outcomes and infant health, especially for high-risk mothers and babies.

## **Evaluation Questions**

The national evaluation team will gather information from Florida to address a wide range of questions about the implementation and outcomes of their efforts including:

- What strategies did Florida use to link data across agencies to enhance reporting of quality measures?
- How many and what type of providers have access to the HIE through their EHRs?
- To what extent were Florida's efforts to enhance medical homes successful in improving the quality of health care for children?
- What are the key lessons from Florida's experience that would be useful for other States?

## **Learn More**

This information is current as of March 2012, slightly more than 2 years after grant award. To learn more about the projects that Florida is implementing under the CHIPRA Quality Demonstration Grant Program, please contact:

Candace Ppool, CHIPRA Project Manager  
2727 Mahan Drive, MS 48  
Tallahassee, FL 32308  
850-412-4663  
[Candace.Ppool@ahca.myflorida.com](mailto:Candace.Ppool@ahca.myflorida.com)

To learn more about the national evaluation of the CHIPRA Quality Demonstration Grant Program, visit the evaluation's Web page at <http://www.ahrq.gov/chipra/demoeval>.