



National Business
Coalition on Health

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National Business Coalition on Health Awards Grants to 14 Coalitions for Diabetes Quality Programs

Seed funding promotes diabetes care improvement at a community-level

WASHINGTON – January 18, 2008 – To assist coalitions throughout the U.S. in implementing and evaluating models for improving diabetes care at a community-level, the non-profit National Business Coalition on Health (NBCH) announced the recipients of its first NBCH Diabetes Seed Grant Program. The program for NBCH member coalitions – intended to support the initial stages or further existing diabetes quality programs – was launched with funding from Novo Nordisk, with additional support from Merck & Co., Inc., Pfizer Inc and sanofi-aventis.

“NBCH is pleased to support our member coalitions as they do the important work of convening market stakeholders around the treatment and care of employees with diabetes,” said Andrew Webber, president and CEO of NBCH. “More than one-third of the U.S. adult population has diabetes or is well on their way to getting it. Diabetes care is expensive and if we can improve the quality of that care, we can reduce the cost to businesses and improve the quality of life for employees.”

A variety of programs will be funded with several recipients implementing the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Foundation’s HealthMapRx, a pharmacist-coordinated, patient-self management program modeled after the highly successful Asheville Project. Other efforts include adopting Bridges to Excellence diabetes measures and collaborations with public or private organizations and employers.

The first round of seed grants totaling \$350,000 were awarded to 14 coalitions:

- Colorado Business Group on Health – to expand the Bridges to Excellence initiative
- Employers’ Health Coalition in Fort Smith, Arkansas – for physician recruitment for the Bridges to Excellence Diabetes Care Link Program
- FrontPath Health Coalition in Perrysburg, Ohio – to implement a Medication Therapy Management (MTM) Program similar to HealthMapRx
- The Health Action Council in Cleveland, Ohio – to develop a health information Web site with consumer and physician portals
- HealthCare 21 Business Coalition in Knoxville, Tennessee – to implement HealthMapRx
- Maine Health Management Coalition – to develop a Bridges to Excellence transition initiative to further this program in Maine
- MidAtlantic Business Group on Health in Maryland – to assist physicians in incorporating the Bridges to Excellence Diabetes Care Link Program into their practices.
- Midwest Business Group on Health in Chicago – to expand HealthMapRx through MBGH’s Taking Control of Your Health program
- Nevada Health Care Coalition – to implement HealthMapRx
- South Carolina Business Coalition on Health – to implement HealthMapRx
- St. Louis Area Business Health Coalition – to implement the Diabetes@work program
- Tri-State Health Care Coalition based in Quincy, Illinois – for HealthMapRx evaluation
- Virginia Business Coalition on Health – to implement HealthMapRx
- Western North Carolina Health Coalition – to expand the Asheville Project for improved medication compliance to small employers

The coalitions will involve multiple stakeholders at the community-level including employers, patients with diabetes, physicians, pharmacists and other health care providers. NBCH will support member coalitions with evaluation and technical assistance to measure and report the results of these programs.

About the National Business Coalition on Health

Celebrating 15 years of value based purchasing, NBCH is a national, non-profit, membership organization of nearly 60 business and health coalitions, representing over 7,000 employers and 34 million employees and their dependents across the United States. NBCH and its members are dedicated to value based purchasing of health care services through the collective action of public and private purchasers. For additional information visit: www.nbch.org.

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