



Fourth Annual Supporting the Safety Net Award

As part of its commitment to serving vulnerable populations, the Association of Community Affiliated Plans (ACAP) announces its fourth “Supporting the Safety Net” award. This award will be presented to a community-based organization (CHC, hospital, community provider, etc.) or individual whose work goes beyond the norm and whose services are recognized as best practices that stand as a model for replication in the safety net environment.

BACKGROUND

The Association of Community Affiliated Plans is an association of 42 health plans whose mission is to improve the health of vulnerable populations through the support of Medicaid-focused community affiliated health plans. Our health plans believe in the value of managed care to promote continuity and quality of care and continually strive to offer innovative programs to address the health care needs of the population they serve.

ACAP plans share a collective mission to improve the communities they serve through:

- Community health and health promotion;
- Access to quality care; and
- Quality of care and equity for low-income and disenfranchised populations.

The Supporting the Safety Net award will be given to a community-based organization (CBO) or individual that *clearly exceeds the norm* in developing and implementing innovative practices to meet the medical, behavioral, and/or social needs of high-risk people in its service population.

Former recipients of the award include:

- The Baby Love Program at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York, an organization that provides “high touch” social outreach for high-risk pregnant enrollees (nominated by Monroe Plan for Medical Care in 2006).
- Community Partners, Inc. of Amherst, Massachusetts, an organization that provides “one-stop shopping” and support for outreach workers (nominated by Network Health in 2007).
- And most recently, the Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers, an organization that works to improve the health status of the underserved community through outreach, provider education, data collection and analysis, coalition building, and collaborating with key stakeholders (nominated by Horizon NJ Health in 2008).

ELIGIBLE NOMINEES

Community-based organizations or individuals that serve Medicaid or other low-income populations are eligible for nomination. These can include, but are not limited to:

- Community health centers;
- Local health departments;
- Public hospitals and other safety net-based hospitals;
- Other community-based nonprofit organizations that predominantly serve vulnerable or low-income populations, e.g., behavioral health organizations, social service agencies; or
- An individual (e.g., state or federal legislator, local politician, employee of a government agency, leader of a community coalition) who has clearly benefited the safety net by engaging in specific actions.

APPLICATION PROCESS

All written applications are due to ACAP by **June 18, 2009**. A selection committee, including ACAP Board members and representatives of outside organizations committed to supporting the safety net, will review the applications and select a winner by June 25, 2009.

A two page applications for qualified nominees should be submitted to ACAP. The following questions should be addressed:

- What is the mission of the nominated organization? If the nominee is an individual, discuss his/her personal commitment to underserved populations.
- What populations are served by the nominee?
- What program(s) does the nominee provide or support that enhances the medical or behavioral health of the population served? If available, please include outcome information/data that supports the success of the program; and a

description on how the program improves the health and/or quality of life of the population served.

- What makes this nominee unique and/or innovative with respect to underserved populations?
- How does the nominee partner with other community-based resources to support, promote, and/or implement services in the target population?
- How does the nominee demonstrate cultural and linguistic sensitivity to the population served?

If the applicant submits a self-nomination, a letter of support from an ACAP member plan should accompany the application. ACAP member plans may also nominate potential award recipients directly following all the criteria noted above.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The award recipient will be determined by the use of the following criteria:

- *Mission Alignment:* Does the mission of the nominee align with ACAP's mission to improve the health of vulnerable populations? (20 %)
- *Collaboration with Other Entities:* Does the nominee collaborate with other community resources to improve the health of vulnerable populations? (10 %)
- *Merits of the Described Program:* Does the nominee's program fill a distinct need within the community? How many people are impacted (directly or indirectly) by the program? Are there quantifiable benefits of the program such as improved health outcomes, cost savings, or administrative simplification? Does this program show potential to affect broader populations? (40 %)
- *Innovation:* Are the nominee's activities unique and *beyond the scope of usual practice* among similar programs or individuals? Do these activities demonstrate innovative thinking and/or new approaches? (25 %)
- *Member Plan Affiliation:* How does the nominee's program impact (directly or indirectly) enrollees of an ACAP member plan? (5 %)

AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT

The award recipient will be notified by June 25, 2009 and invited to an award ceremony at ACAP's July 14-15 CEO Summit in Washington DC. ACAP will pay for travel and hotel expenses. A press release will highlight the key accomplishments of the winning program/individual on ACAP's website (www.communityplans.net) and will also be submitted to local and national newspapers.

HOW TO APPLY

Electronic applications are due to Deborah Kilstein, ACAP Director of Quality Management and Operational Support (dkilstein@communityplans.net) by **June 18, 2009**. Each application should include:

- The two-page application addressing the questions outlined above;
- A copy of not-for-profit certification (organization or agency nominees only); and
- If application is being made by other than an ACAP member plan, a letter of support from such an affiliated plan.

Please direct any questions about the award or selection process to:

Deborah Kilstein
Director of Quality Management
and Operational Support
Association for Community
Affiliated Plans
2001 K Street, NW, Suite 804
Washington, DC 20006
Phone: 202-341-4101
E-mail: dkilstein@communityplans.net