

**Overview of the Centers' for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Quality Demonstration Grant Program:
The Tri-state Children's Health Improvement Consortium Grant Award**

The Tri-state Children's Health Improvement Consortium (T-CHIC) is an alliance between the Medicaid/CHIP programs of Alaska, Oregon, and West Virginia formed with the goal of markedly improving children's healthcare quality. In February 2010, the Oregon-led consortium was awarded nearly \$11.3 million over a 5 year period with \$2.2 million awarded in the first year.

Purpose of the grant

In September 2009, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released an invitation to apply for demonstration grants as outlined in the 2009 Children's Health Insurance Plan Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA). The overarching goal of the funding opportunity is to establish and evaluate a national quality system for children's healthcare.

Through this opportunity, the T-CHIC will use a variety of strategies to demonstrate the impact that different ways of delivering healthcare and healthcare information can have on a child's health. This project aims to drive continuous quality improvement in child healthcare by:

- Measuring appropriate health outcomes in children;
- Improving Health Information Technology (HIT) systems; and
- Developing the best models of healthcare delivery for children and their families.

Each participating state will learn what works best for improving children's health in their own state as well as in the other consortium states. Alaska, Oregon, and West Virginia each have different ways of providing healthcare to children in both rural and urban areas. This will allow the project to collect far more information on improving children's healthcare than if only one state was conducting the project on its own.

Timeline

The project is split into two distinct stages:

Planning Stage

March 2010 – November 2010

Activities:

- Develop a final operational plan; and
- Establish learning collaboratives with broad stakeholder participation.

Implementation Stage

November 2010 – March 2015

Activities:

- Develop, implement, and evaluate a full range of measures that will drive quality improvement in children's healthcare;
- Establish health information exchanges and pilot sites for electronic health record projects; and
- Develop and implement different models of delivering healthcare to children.