



February 17, 2021

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter of intent is to confirm the Texas Health and Human Services Commission's (HHSC) interest in applying for the Community Health Access and Rural Transformation (CHART) Model – Community Transformation Track notice of funding opportunity (CMS-2G2-21-001).

HHSC is a state agency with broad responsibilities for health and human services programs. It is the Texas state Medicaid agency and as such determines eligibility and provides health and social services for multiple health and human services programs and populations, including Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Additionally, HHSC develops reimbursement rates for health and human services programs and determines supplemental and directed payments for certain Medicaid providers. HHSC through its Medicaid Managed Care Quality and Program Improvement developed a comprehensive approach to quality-based (or value-based) payment initiatives and the quality measures adopted to evaluate these initiatives. The initiatives are developed across the entire spectrum of the Texas Medicaid program and CHIP.

HHSC continues to act to improve health care access and outcomes specifically in rural communities. To accomplish a strategy HHSC identified in the state Rural Hospital Services Strategic Plan Progress Report (November 2020), HHSC is working with other state agencies to identify federal funding opportunities for rural hospitals so they might have increased access to revenue opportunities to maximize their reimbursement options. The CHART Model funding is the first federal opportunity identified towards fulfillment of this strategy. To that end, HHSC is convening an inter-agency and stakeholder workgroup for its CHART Model application.

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A preliminary list of rural counties that may be included in our definition of Community for purposes of the application are: Angelina, Brown, Burnet, DeWitt, Dawson, Guadalupe, Haskell, Maverick, Mitchell, Polk, San Augustine, Wichita, and Young.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information. April Ferrino, Project Manager, serves as the lead staff on this matter and she can be reached by telephone at [REDACTED] or by email at april.ferrino@hhs.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cecile Erwin Young". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cecile Erwin Young