



MOVING FORWARD

FEDERAL AGENCY AWARDS UP TO \$16 MILLION TO CLIFFORD BEERS FOR DEVELOPING MODEL OF INTEGRATED CARE ACROSS PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND SOCIAL HEALTH

Partnering with Connecticut Department of Social Services on behalf of New Haven's Medicaid-enrolled children, youth and pregnant women

(NEW HAVEN, CT) – The federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has selected New Haven based Clifford Beers as one of the nation's recipients for the new Integrated Care for Kids (InCK) Model award, totaling up to \$16 million. Clifford Beers' award is designed to address the physical, mental, and social health of enrollees in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (together known as HUSKY Health in Connecticut). The seven-year initiative is part of CMS's strategy to fight the opioid crisis and address its impact on children, youth, their caregivers, and expectant mothers.

Following a highly competitive process, Clifford Beers –a 106-year-old mental health provider for children and families– was selected as Connecticut's local "Lead Organization," in coordination with the state Department of Social Services (DSS), the administering agency for Medicaid.

Dr. Alice Forrester, the CEO of Clifford Beers, remarked that, "This award represents the extraordinary work of the staff at Clifford Beers and our passion toward our mission to improve the lives of children and their families. We are proud to be the local lead organization representing the State of Connecticut Department of Social Services in this incredibly important work. We hope to create an Integrated Care for Kids (InCK) Model in New Haven that can be replicated throughout the state."

By collaborating and integrating with local social services, healthcare and other stakeholder partners around the city of New Haven, Clifford Beers will be at the forefront of health, well-being, and prevention. Additionally, various State of Connecticut agencies saw the value of this work and signed on to partner and invest in creating a robust and efficient InCK system of care. These agencies are: the Department of Children and Families, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Department of Public Health, Office of Early Childhood and the State Department of Education. The InCK Model has the potential to improve the quality of care and reduce costs by serving the needs of the "whole child" across multiple service systems.

Dr. Deidre S. Gifford, Commissioner of the Department of Social Services said, "We look forward to working with Clifford Beers and other partners to help improve the lives and health outcomes of children, families and pregnant women in New Haven. CMS requires states to select a geographic area to function as its service area for the InCK Model and an in-state comparison population for evaluation purposes, and to develop and test an alternative payment model. Collectively, we are interested in not only health outcomes for InCK participants, but seeing improved outcomes across many areas; for example, improved school attendance and graduation, improved kindergarten readiness, fewer referrals to the juvenile justice system, fewer referrals to the child welfare system, improved pregnancy outcomes for newborns and mothers, reduction in the use of opioids and improved coordination between primary care and behavioral healthcare."

InCK funding has provided Connecticut, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, and Oregon with the flexibility to design interventions for their local communities that align healthcare delivery with child welfare support, educational systems, housing and nutrition services, mobile crisis response services, maternal and child health systems, and other relevant service systems.

“InCK Model participants will benefit from systematic integration, coordination, and management of core child services, including clinical care, school-based health services, housing, and other health-related supports,” said a CMS statement announcing the initiative in 2018. “The InCK Model aims to positively impact the health of the next generation through early identification and treatment of behavioral health risk factors of children up to age 21 covered by Medicaid and CHIP in selected states. Testing the use of a state-specific payment model to cover integrated care coordination and case management, the InCK Model will be tailored to the unique challenges faced by providers and patients at the local level, ultimately leading to long-term improvements in child health services and health outcomes.”

In the December 2019 selection announcement, CMS said, “The InCK Model aims to improve child health, reduce avoidable inpatient stays and out-of-home placement, and create sustainable payment models to coordinate physical and behavioral health care with services to address health-related needs. As CMS’s first pediatric model, InCK supports a focus on assessing and serving the needs of the “whole child” from the prenatal stage to age 21 across multiple service systems, where risk factors for poor health outcomes may be more evident than in clinical care settings alone.

Sources for above CMS quotes:

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-announces-new-model-address-impact-opioid-crisis-children>
<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-awards-funding-combat-opioid-misuse-among-expectant-mothers-and-improve-care-children-impacted>

ABOUT CLIFFORD BEERS:

Clifford Beers has a respected century-plus tradition of bringing leading-edge mental health solutions to children and families. Today, Clifford Beers continues to develop and implement community-based systems of care programming in clinic offices, schools, and homes. Among other things, Clifford Beers offers trauma-informed outpatient care, services for children and their families facing autism or intellectual/developmental disabilities, care coordination that considers the full family dynamic, trauma training for child-serving organizations (schools, camps), and emergency crisis care. Last year, Clifford Beers served over 6,300 children/caregivers and provided professional development training to over 3,300 in Connecticut and beyond. Clifford Beers also maintains a policy presence to protect and expand funding that supports critical human services. In July 2018, Clifford Beers earned the Gold Seal of Accreditation from The Joint Commission, indicating the agency’s high-quality care. Get Clifford Beers news at <https://www.facebook.com/cliffordbeersCT/>

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