

Digital Health for Complex Populations: Pilot Challenge

Designing digital health solutions that meet the needs of low-income, high-need individuals



Pilot Challenge Summary

Background

One of the fastest growing trends in health care is the development of digital health tools that help individuals and their providers manage chronic conditions. While the field is rapidly expanding, low-income individuals with complex medical and social needs are not typically the focus of these products. However, this population is becoming increasingly connected to mobile and digital technologies, and digital solutions may help them address their complex needs.

Project Overview

With support from Kaiser Permanente Community Benefit, the Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS) is seeking to bring the potential benefits of digital health tools to high-need, high-cost patient populations through a variety of activities, including a series of three *Developer Challenge* competitions. The [first challenge](#), hosted in 2015, tasked start-ups, entrepreneurs, and developers with designing digital health tools that could meet the unique needs of this population. **This second challenge will match two technology companies each with a health care partner for a nine-month pilot project.** Two health care systems have been selected by CHCS and external reviewers to serve as “host organizations.” Through the Challenge, these organizations will pilot a technology solution designed to address a specific issue they face related to the care of high-need, high-cost, low-income individuals. Beginning in June 2016:

- CHCS will open the challenge to the digital health and developer communities to apply to partner with one of the host organizations.
- Host organizations will interview applicants of interest and select a partner. The teams will then develop a joint project plan to pilot the technology within the host organization.
- Joint project plans will be evaluated by CHCS and external reviewers to ensure that plans are appropriate, feasible, and impactful.
- Once joint project plans are approved by CHCS, each team will be awarded \$25,000, to be split as the entities see fit, to support the pilot over nine months.

Host organizations have committed to:

- Reaching at least 100 patients through this pilot; and
- Considering permanent adoption of the digital technology after the pilot is completed.

Applicant Criteria

In order to apply, technology companies must:

- Be a legally established and incorporated business;
- Have a fully functioning product that can be deployed at scale at the time of the pilot;
- Have the capacity and willingness to modify their product as required by the host organization;
- Have the ability to collect and analyze patient data; and
- Have the professionalism to maintain a strong and positive working relationship with the host organization.

CHCS will begin soliciting applications from technology companies on **June 6, 2016**. If you have questions about this project, please visit www.chcs.org/pilotchallenge or send an email to PilotChallenge@chcs.org.

ABOUT THE CENTER FOR HEALTH CARE STRATEGIES

The Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS) is a nonprofit policy center dedicated to improving the health of low-income Americans. It works with state and federal agencies, health plans, providers, and consumer groups to develop innovative programs that better serve people with complex and high-cost health care needs. For more information, visit www.chcs.org.