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NEW “MEDICAID ACADEMY” FOR STATE OFFICIALS AIMED AT MAKING NEW JERSEY A LEADER IN MEDICAID DELIVERY

The Nicholson Foundation to Fund Unique Training Program Led by the Center for Health Care Strategies

Newark, N.J. – Beginning October 20th, a select group of managers across New Jersey government agencies that administer Medicaid will take part in a unique two-year training program called the New Jersey Medicaid Academy (NJMA). Funded through a nearly \$400,000 grant from The Nicholson Foundation, the program is developed and led by expert faculty from the Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS), a nationally recognized nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the health of low-income Americans. The NJMA is designed to advance the capacity of New Jersey’s Medicaid leaders to improve the state’s Medicaid program and better serve New Jersey’s 1.7 million Medicaid beneficiaries.

The training program will provide participants with the opportunity to strengthen their knowledge of Medicaid; learn about emerging national Medicaid trends; boost their personal leadership skills; and develop an understanding of innovative Medicaid program design (including approaches undertaken by other states). It will also offer participants the chance to develop new, meaningful relationships across New Jersey’s health and human services agencies to allow them to work together to continuously improve services for state residents served by Medicaid.

“The Nicholson Foundation is dedicated to working with policymakers to implement health care delivery that provides New Jersey’s vulnerable populations with access to appropriate care at an affordable cost,” said Maureen Deevey, senior program officer for The Nicholson Foundation. “Through this unique partnership with the Center for Health Care Strategies, the Academy will give Medicaid leaders throughout New Jersey the opportunity to bolster their knowledge and leadership skills to improve delivery and outcomes.”

With the launch of the NJMA, New Jersey will join California as the only two states in which the Center for Health Care Strategies has administered a Medicaid training program. The curriculum for the NJMA was specifically developed by CHCS to support the goals of the New Jersey Department of Human Services’ Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) for improving innovations and efficiencies in the state’s Medicaid program.

“We are thrilled to partner with The Nicholson Foundation and the Center for Health Care Strategies to offer this unique training program,” said Valerie Harr, director of the DMAHS, who spearheaded the effort. “We hope the NJMA will help make New Jersey a national leader in effective and efficient Medicaid delivery for our most vulnerable populations.”

Applications were open to managers in DMAHS, as well as the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities, and other related state agencies. Between 60 to 70 competitively selected managers will participate in two, seven-month cohorts of the NJMA over two years.

To learn more about the NJMA, visit <http://thenicholsonfoundation.org/what-we-do/projects/new-jersey-medicaid-academy>.

ABOUT THE NICHOLSON FOUNDATION

The Nicholson Foundation is dedicated to addressing the complex needs of vulnerable populations in New Jersey's urban and other underserved communities. We support efforts to improve the quality of health and human service delivery systems. Through partnerships with policymakers, stakeholders, and service providers, we seek to achieve transformative, sustainable systems reform. Learn more at www.thenicholsonfoundation.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. CHCS works with state and federal agencies, health plans, providers, and consumer groups to develop innovative programs that better serve beneficiaries of publicly financed health care. It provides leadership and capacity building training as well as technical assistance and training to enhance access to coverage and services; advance delivery system and payment reform; and integrate services for people with complex needs. Learn more at www.chcs.org.