



## Medicaid Waiver: Register for Meeting on March 7 with DOH and Potential Partners

[Registration](#) is now available online for our March 7 meeting with DOH on the Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) program, a key component of New York's proposed Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT) waiver. This program is designed to help members understand potential opportunities in the DSRIP program, and strategize with potential partners to prepare to submit projects once the opportunity is made available. The meeting will be held from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. at the GNYHA/Continuing Care Leadership Coalition Conference Center, 555 West 57th Street, 15th Floor, New York, NY. It should be noted that space is limited and thus the meeting is intended for providers only. The event is free, but registration is required by March 5.

The meeting is cosponsored with the **Healthcare Association of New York State, Home Care Association of New York State, Community Health Care Association of New York State, Mental Health Association in New York State, and GNYHA/Continuing Care Leadership Coalition**. Through this joint effort, members will have the opportunity to network with a variety of provider types, including hospitals, primary care and behavioral health providers. A clear theme of the proposed MRT waiver is collaboration with other types of providers, and once the waiver is approved we anticipate providers will have a relatively short time to prepare applications and collaborate with community partners. Thus, all interested members are strongly encouraged to participate in the March 7 meeting.

DOH has set up a DSRIP webpage, which has some preliminary data that can be helpful in identifying possible targets for a DSRIP project. This page is located on the MRT website, and can be accessed [here](#). In preparation, members are urged to review the revised DSRIP plan and Managed Care/State Plan Amendment overview documents DOH sent to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on January 30. These documents were revised and updated as a result of comments solicited from stakeholders in December and January and ongoing conversations with CMS. LeadingAge NY submitted extensive comments on the proposal. We have amended our summary of the DSRIP proposal, which can be accessed [here](#).

### Background

The MRT waiver represents the state's effort to make a vital re-investment in the transformation of the health care system. The state anticipates getting final approval from CMS soon to implement the DSRIP program, which is just one aspect of the amended waiver. Through the DSRIP, providers will implement one or more projects designed to achieve the state's goal of reducing potentially preventable hospitalizations. If successful in achieving certain benchmarks, the participants will receive an incentive payment at different intervals. Data collection is a key aspect of this initiative. Projects are outlined in the aforementioned DSRIP plan.

DOH has indicated that collaboration with other health care provider organizations in their community will be an important emphasis of the DSRIP program, so eligible providers will need to develop

proposals that identify and work with other health care providers to achieve DSRIP goals. Again, the fundamental focus of the DSRIP is to reduce or prevent hospitalizations, and create a more integrated service delivery system.

While “safety net provider” has not yet been defined for the purposes of DSRIP, providers that believe they may qualify or want to partner with a qualified organization are encouraged to send appropriate staff to the March 7 meeting. The DSRIP plan specifically mentions opportunities for nursing homes, home care providers, and managed long term care providers, hospice/palliative care, with the possibility for assisted living program participation as well. That being said, the DSRIP proposal does indicate certain provider types as “leads” on projects. DOH clearly wants providers in regions to collaborate, and is not interested in applications submitted by a single entity alone.

## **Conclusion**

We encourage members to consider participation in this program to be prepared to apply to submit a project for the DSRIP program, once it is available. The timeframes outlined in the DSRIP plan are very aggressive. While some of the details of the program are being negotiated between DOH and CMS currently, we believe that once the opportunity is made available, there will be a very short timeframe to develop a proposal and submit. The amended DSRIP proposal indicates that DOH hopes to receive CMS approval for the waiver by early March, and have planning applications due by April 4. In order to take advantage of this opportunity, your organization should be having discussions now.

If you have any questions about the DSRIP, you may contact Diane Darbyshire at [ddarbyshire@leadingageny.org](mailto:ddarbyshire@leadingageny.org), or Dan Heim, [dheim@leadingageny.org](mailto:dheim@leadingageny.org); both can be reached at 518-867-8383.