



Reinvestment Act Investments in Comparative Effectiveness Research for a Community Forum

The Need: Engaged Stakeholders

Given the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) aims and its investment in comparative effectiveness research, stakeholders need to be formally engaged in the entire enterprise to make it inclusive and transparent.

The Solution: Community Forum

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) will use Recovery Act funds to establish and support a Community Forum on Effective Health Care to formally engage stakeholders. This initiative will build on the smaller initiative that has guided AHRQ's Effective Health Care Program and will be an important component for a larger and more sustained national initiative in comparative effectiveness research, translation, and use.

The Community Forum on Effective Health Care will formally engage stakeholders, through a variety of transparent and inclusive mechanisms, at the critical stages of identifying research needs, study design, interpretation of results, development of products, and research dissemination. Funds will be used to develop formal processes for input, convene citizen panels, and convene a Workgroup on Comparative Effectiveness to provide formal advice and guidance to the program. Funds will also support programs in citizen awareness of the use of comparative effectiveness evidence in health care decisionmaking. These programs, developed under the guidance of the Community Forum, may include town hall meetings, Web-based information exchange, and community-based grassroots awareness efforts.

Funding Method: Cost-based reimbursement contract

Project Duration: Up to 5 years

Funding Amount: \$10 million

Information on contract solicitations can be found at www.fbo.gov.