

Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners

Project Abstract

The applicant, Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, serves as the lead agency for Pinellas County for the Cooperative Agreement to Support Navigators in Federally-facilitated and State Partnership Marketplaces opportunity. The FY 18 Cooperative Agreement will allow the Project to continue to offer accessible, comprehensive health exchange information and (re)enrollment into health plans that meet the community's need.

Pinellas County Human Services has established a structure and plan for overseeing implementation of the Cooperative Agreement in compliance with the Navigators duties identified in 45 CFR 155.210 and 45 CFR 155.215 and summarized as follows:

- Conducting public education activities to raise awareness about the Exchange
- Facilitating the selection of a Qualified Health Plan
- Providing information in a manner that is culturally and linguistically appropriate to the population served by the Marketplace, including individuals with limited English Proficiency and that is accessible to individuals with disabilities
- Complying with applicable training and conflict of interest standards
- Obtaining authorization of applicants for coverage prior to accessing their PII

The proposed federal budget request is \$275,916.00. Funding will be used to re-hire four (4) Navigators contracted during the last fiscal year, purchase supplies and conduct marketing outreach. The program will maintain a ratio of bilingual Navigators speaking Spanish and Haitian French/Creole.

There are approximately 2.5 million uninsured residents in the State of Florida with approximately 102,640 uninsured residents in Pinellas County. Pinellas County will continue to serve all individuals and families within the County's geographic service area. The County intends to target areas with higher concentrations of individuals "left behind" including uninsured or underinsured residents, Medically Underserved Populations (MUP) areas, and communities with a high concentration of the population living at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

The program goals are to provide education, information, selection, and (re)enrollment services for Qualified Health Plans (QHP) or other Federal/State/Local healthcare programs to residents in a manner that is sensitive to cultural, linguistic, physical, mental, and educational differences. It is estimated that 60,000 consumers will be reached through outreach and education events, 2,800 consumers will have one-on-one interactions with Navigators and 550 will be assisted with the selecting/enrolling in a QHP.

Participants will be able to obtain services at 11 access points throughout the County. Navigators will assist individuals with limited English proficiency have made services accessible to individuals with disabilities. All service centers are ADA compliant and accessible to individuals with physical disabilities. Navigator staff will make every effort to provide any additional reasonable accommodations when possible to support individuals with disabilities.

Through collaborative efforts, a solid workplan, intensive training for the Navigators, and a strong marketing campaign, Pinellas County has the optimum capability for success.