

June 19, 2024

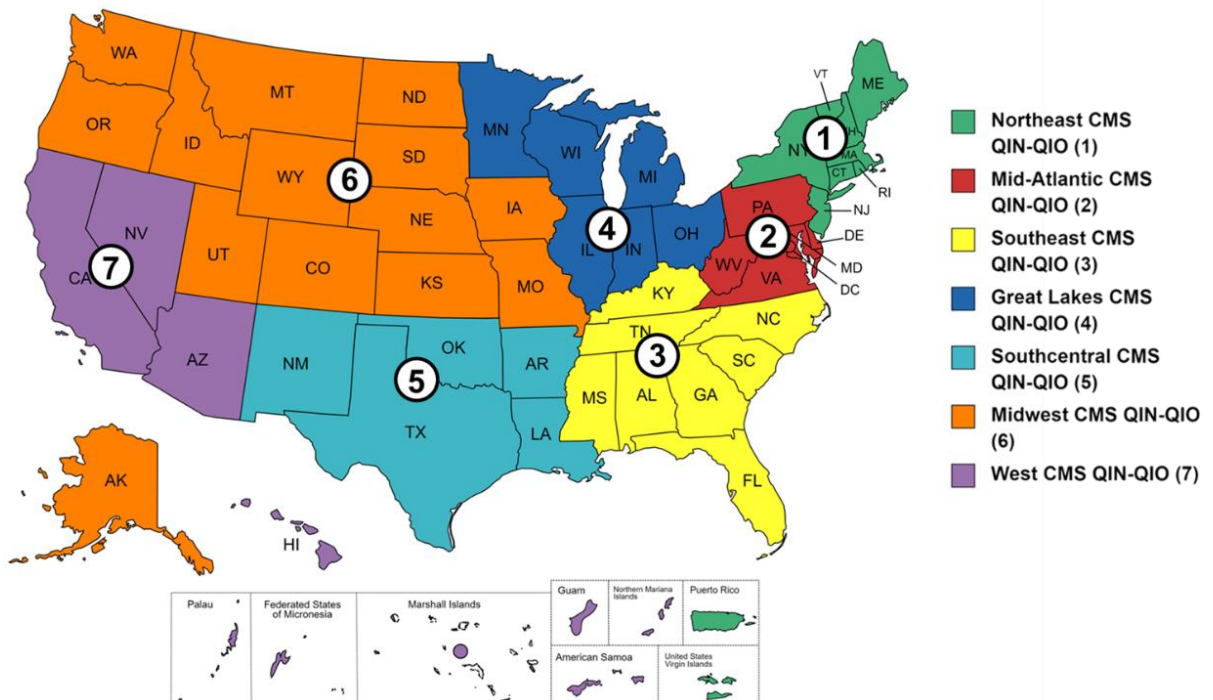
Dear national partners,

As the organization representing Quality Innovation Network - Quality Improvement Organizations (QIN-QIOs), the American Health Quality Association (AHQA) is dedicated to promoting and facilitating fundamental change that improves the quality of health care in America. The QIN-QIO Program is the largest federal program focused on improving health quality at the community level. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with a status update on our future work together.

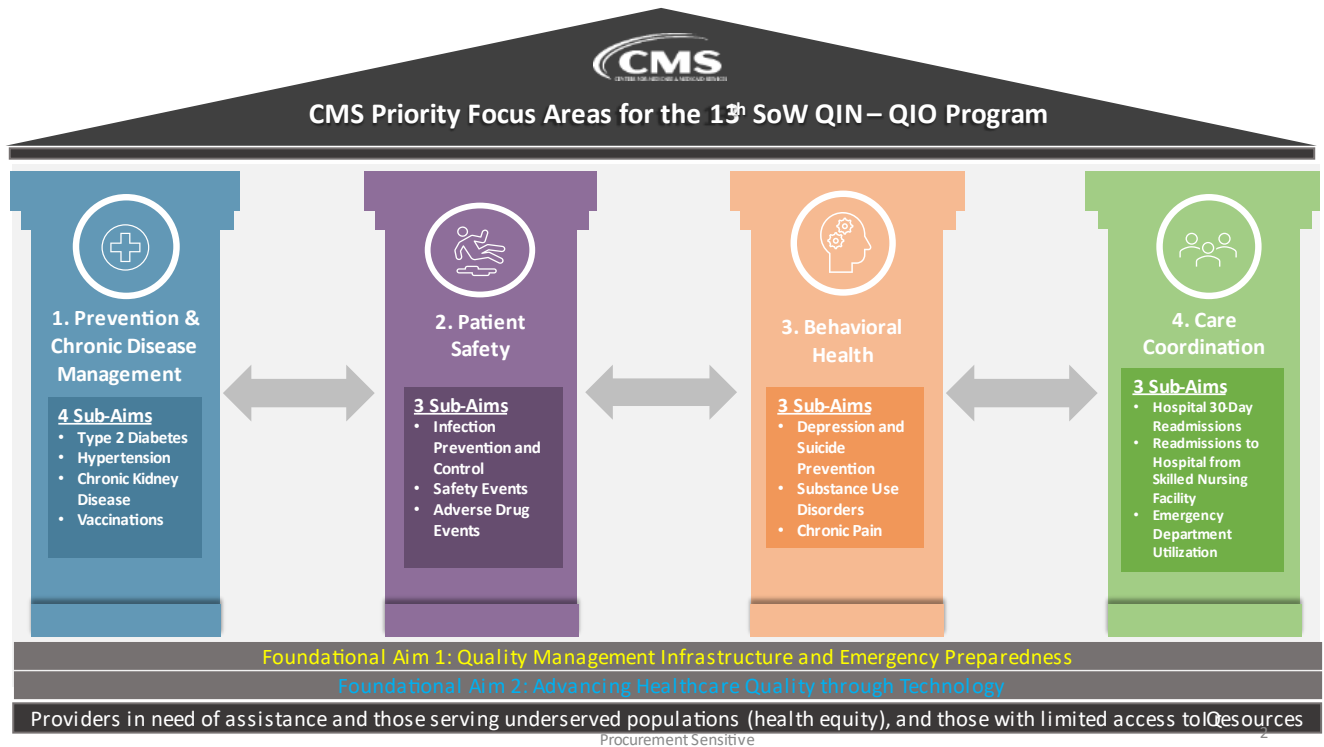
Our current efforts under the 12th Statement of Work (SOW) involve connecting with nursing homes, leading partnerships for community health, and performing targeted response quality improvement initiatives as the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) identifies areas of need. The QIN-QIOs are supporting health care providers on a daily basis with technical assistance, resources, and education for their quality improvement efforts. This contract is scheduled to end in November 2024.

CMS released an early draft of the 13th SOW (the next five-year QIN-QIO contract) on Sam.gov in October 2023, so we have seen a preview of the direction of the QIO program. Our organizations are excited to see the responsiveness to provider needs in the 13th SOW. In addition, CMS plans to group QIN-QIOs into 7 national regions, as shown on the following map:

13th SoW CMS QIN-QIO National Design



The priority areas in the 13th SOW align with CMS’ National Quality Strategy, including the following clinical and foundational aims:



What’s New:

CMS’ most recent funding opportunity forecast is projecting the 13th SOW Request For Proposals should be released around 7/16/24, with a projected start date of 11/1/24. We expect that QIN-QIOs will be drafting proposals this summer, with CMS to select awardees this fall.

As we learn more, we will share further updates. AHQA’s QIO members are ready and able to work with your organizations to address your needs through the 13th SOW, and AHQA is committed to keeping you updated during this critical time of transition and change.

We appreciated the time you gave us last year to brief us on the work of your organization. QIN-QIOs are eager to continue to incorporate feedback from national, state and local stakeholder organizations, and working together to assess and prioritize what providers need to improve health care quality and safety. If you have any questions, or want to discuss opportunities to align our future work under the QIN-QIO program, please reach out to Alison Teitelbaum, AHQA Executive Director, at ateitelbaum@ahqa.org, and Ryan Sailor, AHQA President, at ryan.sailor@greatplainsqin.org.