

# New Federal Funding for State APCDs: Considerations for Voluntary APCDs

Spring 2021 Webinar Series  
May 12, 2021



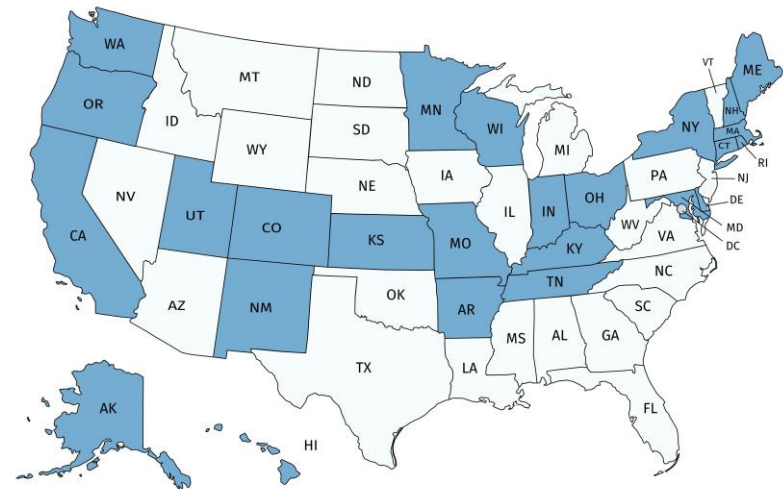
John Freedman  
Linda Green  
Tanya Bernstein  
Mary Jo Condon  
Jonathan Mathieu

# About Freedman HealthCare



- ▶ Founded in 2005
- ▶ Focus on state and nonprofit health data initiatives
- ▶ Experienced APCD managers and data analysts
- ▶ Full APCD lifecycle expertise: stakeholders, law, rules, RFPs, data quality, analytics, data access, sustainability, enhancements

We have hands-on APCD experience in 25 states



# FHC Team



**John Freedman**  
President and  
CEO

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Executive Vice  
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Principal  
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# National Association of Health Data Organizations (NAHDO)

NAHDO is a national non-profit membership and educational association dedicated to improving health care data collection and use.

NAHDO members include state and private health data organizations that maintain statewide health care databases and stakeholders of these databases.

The APCD Council is a program of NAHDO in partnership with the Institute for Health Policy and Practice (IHPP) at the University of New Hampshire (UNH).



# Today's Discussion



- ▶ Program Overview
- ▶ Key Questions for Voluntary APCDs to Consider
- ▶ Readiness Checklist
- ▶ Conversation with Virginia Health Information

*Today's focus: Thinking through the CCA Section 115 APCD Grant Program from the perspective of a voluntary APCD*

# CCA Section 115 APCD Grant Program



- ▶ Runs Federal Fiscal Years 2022-2024 (October 2021 – September 2024)
- ▶ Grant term: 3 years
- ▶ State submits the application
- ▶ Stated amount: \$2.5M per state
  - \$1M years in each of years 1 and 2
  - \$500K year 3
- ▶ Grant money may be used for:
  - Establishing an APCD
  - Improving an existing APCD

# Required Application Components

- ▶ Assumption: One application, one grant per state
  
- ▶ **State** must describe or commit to:
  - A “uniform collection process”
  - Robust data privacy and security provisions
  - A data access program
  
- ▶ Conditions for “priority” award consideration
  - Intention to work with other States to develop a common data request application
  - Intention to implement the standardized format for voluntary collection of ERISA data

# Step One: Mission Fit





- ▶ What is our mission?
  - ✓ Trusted, neutral information source, and/or convener
  - ✓ Provide/share data to support Triple/Quadruple/Quintuple Aim
  - ✓ Inform purchasers and consumers
  - ✓ Other?
  
- ▶ How will our operations change?
  - Mandatory submissions, possibly from more payers?
  - New process and/or rules for data access?
  - New process and/or rules for internal data use and sharing?

***Will the anticipated changes better position us to realize our mission?***

# Step Two: Stakeholder Support

## Will your partners be supportive?

- Gain Input on Value
- Hear Concerns
- Understand Sticking Points

*Offer opportunities for private and group conversations*



***Ask everyone you talk with, “Who else do I need to talk to?”***

# Partnering with Your State

On a parallel track, start (continue) discussions with your state.

- Who or what agency is leading this work? If no one, can you find an interested ally in an agency or in the legislature?
- When the state considers an APCD, what does it envision? Does its vision align with yours?
- Begin thinking through your ideal arrangement. How does data flow? What about dollars? What tasks are you responsible for completing? What tasks does the state take on?

# Step Three: Sustainability

## *Potential financial impact on data operations*



### **New Costs**

- Planning costs
- More data to aggregate
- More/different collaborators and requirements



### **New Revenues**

- APCD grant dollars
- IAPD dollars
- Data license fees
- Philanthropy, state, local and federal grants

***Can we afford to pursue this opportunity?  
Can we afford not to pursue it?***

# The Tough Conversations



Do we have the bandwidth, or can we hire it?



Do we have sufficient cash to fund the upfront investment in planning? If not, can we raise money to support the process?



Is this how we want to spend our political capital?



What will be the impact on our other work?

- Resources
- Stakeholder support



What happens to our existing data set?



What does success look like? What about failure?

# What Can Voluntary APCDs & Interested Organizations Do to Prepare?



Area	Topic	Yes	No
Internal Assessment	Is running a APCD consistent with my organization's mission?		
	Is running a state APCD consistent with my organization's business plan?		
	Do we have sufficient staff and resources to lead the planning effort?		
	Who might be our competitors for this work?		
	Are we willing to tackle all the items on the "Newly-Authorized APCD" list (at some point)?		
Environmental Assessment	Are my stakeholders and partners in support of my organization becoming the state's APCD?		
	Am I in contact with my state's DOH, DOI, Medicaid and other state agencies to determine if they would endorse my organization as a possible home for the state's APCD		
	Do I have a vehicle - committee, workgroup etc. -- to convene state stakeholders and my organization's stakeholders in coming to agreement on the other aspects of the readiness checklist, grant application		
Impact on Strategic Direction and Sustainability	How would running the state APCD conflict or align with our current or planned projects (e.g., data use and reporting, health and care quality improvement initiatives, cost or transparency work)?		
	What level of state support will be needed to fully fund the APCD (without compromising existing priorities )?		
	What additional investment in data management resources is needed to meet anticipated needs?		
	Are there opportunities to "clamp on" to another, existing organization?		

# Conversation with VHI



Michael Lundberg  
**Chief Executive Officer**



Kyle Russell  
**Director of Strategy and  
Analytics**



# **Virginia Health Information: APCD Overview**

March 15, 2021



# Virginia Health Information

- Independent 501(c)(3) non-profit established in 1993
- Unbiased public-private partnership focused on transparency
- Administers Virginia healthcare data reporting requirements- highlights include (but not limited to):
  - ✓ Hospital Discharge Database (including AHRQ Indicators Report)
  - ✓ State Health Information Exchange (HIE)
  - ✓ Emergency Department Care Coordination Program (EDCCP)
  - ✓ Hospital/Nursing/HMO Cost & Quality
  - ✓ All Payer Claims Database (APCD)

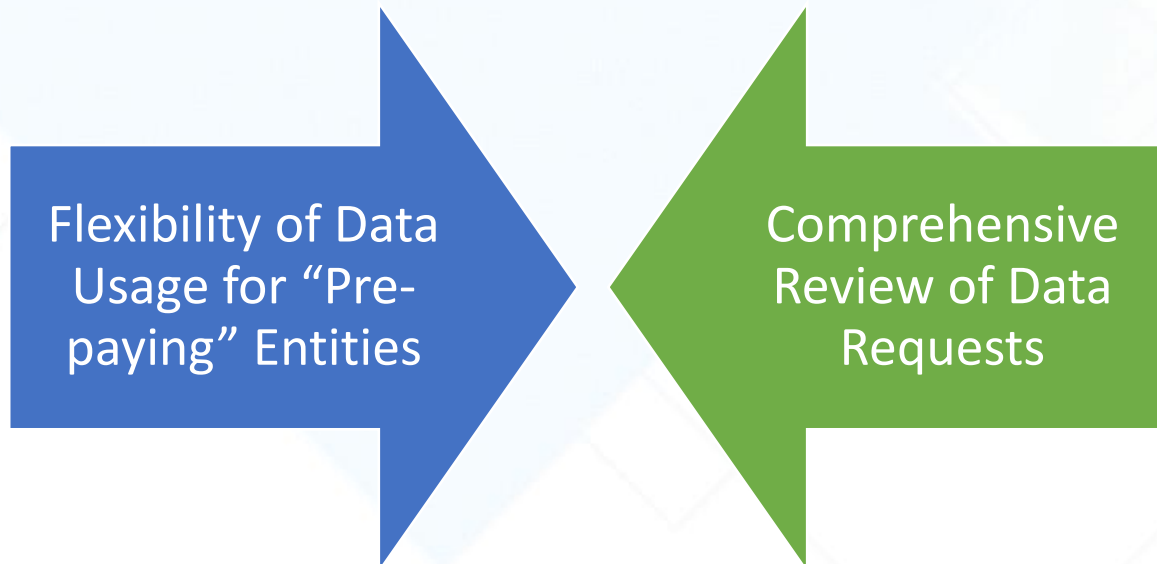


# Virginia's APCD- the Beginning

- Voluntary system established in 2012
- **Original Funding-**
  - 40% Health Plans + 40% Health Systems + 20% VHI (not recommended!)
- **Data Access-** health plans and health systems were provided data via a subscription model, all other entities go through APCD Data Release Committee
- **Data Collection Layout-** driven by Post Adjudicated Claims Data Reporting (PACDR) standard, loosely based on Colorado's original layout

# Voluntary APCD- the Good & the Bad

- Participation was good....but not 100%
- Receiving almost no state funding meant higher fees for plans and providers...who had different ideas on what their funding should cover
- Relationship with plans is slightly different in a voluntary submission program



# Changing to Mandatory

- **Funding-** General Funds + Medicaid Match + Licensing/Grant Revenue
- **Data Access-** all requests through APCD Data Release Committee
- **Data Collection-** Common Data Layout (CDL) !



# Discussion



Michael Lundberg  
**Chief Executive Officer**



Kyle Russell  
**Director of Strategy and  
Analytics**

# New Resources Available on FreedmanHealthCare.com



FHC's Resources page <https://freedmanhealthcare.com/data-resources/> , including:

- Your questions, answered: <https://freedmanhealthcare.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/CAA-APCD-Grant-Q-and-A.pdf>
- Find slides from our first five webinars:
  - [Getting Ready to Win Your State's Grant](#)
  - [Developing Data Access Programs](#)
  - [Data Product Types and Requirements](#)
  - [Protecting Individual Privacy and Reporting Financial Data](#)
  - [Elements of a Common Data Request Application](#)
- Pointers to best practices and sample materials  
<https://freedmanhealthcare.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/APCD-Data-Access-Programs-What-to-Read.pdf>



# Upcoming Webinars

- ▶ Upcoming in our Complimentary Webinar Series: Getting Ready for Federal Grants – all at 1 PM ET

March 31	Data Product Types and Requirements
April 14	Protecting Individual Privacy and Reporting Financial Data
April 28	Elements of a “Common Data Request Application”
May 12	Regional/Voluntary APCDs
May 26	Learning Community: Progress and Updates

- ▶ Sign up at [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_UXLQHkLfRAuQDgbl\\_SthoQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UXLQHkLfRAuQDgbl_SthoQ)

 Watch for our follow up email with slides and signup information