



# NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AWARD *in Asthma Management*

COMPREHENSIVE ASTHMA  
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

GETTING RESULTS –  
EVALUATING THE PROGRAM

SUSTAINING THE PROGRAM

## Application Guidelines and Evaluation Criteria for Health Plans

Your application should address the three evaluation areas on the tabs above:

- Area 1: Comprehensive Asthma Management Program
- Area 2: Getting Results – Evaluating the Program
- Area 3: Sustaining the Program

Each tab explains the area and links to the relevant Application Guidelines and Evaluation Criteria. Use the left column (Application Guidelines) as a roadmap to writing your story, making sure to cover the items in the right column (Evaluation Criteria), which the review panelists will use to evaluate your application. The Evaluation Criteria column also includes examples, all of which are excerpts from applications of past Asthma Award winners.

Your responses to the three areas will be evaluated against criteria designed to discover and highlight national leaders. Be sure to include features of your program that are unique, innovative, creative or otherwise distinguish your program from others. You may receive up to 5 bonus points for distinguishing program features. Examples of distinguishing program features from past award applications are highlighted in the Evaluation Criteria.

You may collaborate with your partnering organizations on an application and you are encouraged to highlight key roles that these organizations play in delivering quality care (e.g., delivering clinical care services; providing school- or home-based interventions; or providing social services that allow people with asthma to focus on their asthma).

The key to winning the National Environmental Leadership Award in Asthma Management is to demonstrate that your comprehensive asthma management program:

- Embodies the *System for Delivering High-Quality Asthma Care* –including the key drivers of program effectiveness –as described in the [Communities in Action for Asthma-Friendly Environments Change Package](#);
- Integrates the NIH EPR-3 Guidelines throughout the continuum of care;
- Includes a robust environmental component; and
- Achieves positive health and financial outcomes.



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## Area 1.a Management Structure and Operating Principles

### Area 1. Comprehensive Asthma Management Program (70 points total)

In this section, describe your comprehensive asthma program, including your program's management structure and operating principles (1.a) as well as the ***integrated health care services*** (1.b), and ***environmental management interventions*** (1.c) your asthma program provides. Highlight ***high-performing collaborations*** that contribute to your success, and discuss your approach to reducing asthma disparities in the community you serve.

#### 1.a Management Structure and Operating Principles (20 points)

Tell the story of how your asthma program:

- Describe your organization.
- Describe the demographics of the population impacted by your asthma program.
- Describe the origin and evolution of your asthma program.

Application Guidelines	Evaluation Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Describe your health plan and its distinguishing features.</li><li>• Describe the population served by your comprehensive asthma program. Please be as specific as possible. For example, include average age, ethnicity, languages spoken, income, etc.</li><li>• Describe when and how your asthma disease management program began and how it changed over time. What needs did you recognize in the population you serve and how did you organize to address those needs? What additional services have you added to identify new patients and help patients control asthma?</li><li>• Describe who championed the asthma program's evaluation and how change occurred.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The applicant identified main components of the program and the program's mission, vision, goals, and objectives.</li><li>• The applicant presented any honors, awards, or distinctions previously awarded to the program.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Example:</b> "Nurtur is also the first health management organization to receive H-TAP (Healthcare Transparency Accreditation Program) Accreditation from the Population Health Impact Institute for its five chronic disease management programs, recognizing the company's statistical validity, quality, and transparency to clients in its outcomes reporting."</li></ul></li><li>• Staff demonstrates knowledge of asthma-related services and implementation of health care plans.</li><li>• The program understands its target audience and the demographics of its community.</li></ul>



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## Area 1.a Management Structure and Operating Principles (continued)

Application Guidelines	Evaluation Criteria
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The program's population demonstrates need for asthma-related services (high asthma rates, low SES, etc.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Example:</b> "Asthma disproportionately affects the Hispanic population....This population has more problems managing their asthma, including seeking less care from their Primary Care Provider (PCP) or a specialist and having less prescriptions for asthma medicines. LA Cares About Asthma® is made up of 46.2% Spanish-speaking members. All of the program's asthma nurses are bi-lingual, and coordination with the Health Education/Cultural &amp; Linguistics department ensures asthma materials are culturally and linguistically appropriate."</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The program makes services accessible to its target community and employs approaches to increase patient participation in programs (e.g., targeted outreach, incentives for participation in program components, accessible office locations and hours).</li> <li>• Strategy and goals are comprehensive (i.e., address both medical and environmental management) and are aligned with the community's asthma care needs.</li> <li>• Program continually assesses and refines its service offerings and delivery based on feedback from the target community.</li> <li>• Applicant identified and encouraged leaders and champions who helped to establish, build and promote the asthma program.</li> </ul>



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## Area 1.b Integrated Health Care Services

### 1.b Integrated Health Care Services (20 points)

Describe the partners that comprise the system of care you provide patients and their families in the asthma disease management program.

Application Guidelines	Evaluation Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe program tools and strategies that address common barriers to access and treatment adherence and that reduce health disparities among your Medicare, Medicaid and commercial patients.</li> <li>Describe the ways in which you partner with providers, vendors, community organizations, federal and/or state agencies, etc., to ensure a coordinated approach to facilitating comprehensive asthma care and improve patient outcomes.</li> <li>Describe the communication system that is in place to ensure a coordinated approach.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applicant addresses health and socioeconomic disparities in the community and explains how the program targets those disparities in an innovative and effective manner. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Example:</b> "Because many of the barriers for medical care in Medicaid are the result of lack of social support and safe housing, we have developed an aggressive care coordination program to ensure our patients have such basic services as transportation to the doctor, electricity for their nebulizer, and a clean home environment."</li> </ul> </li> <li>Program takes action to continuously ensure strong community ties by participating in local organizations and activities, hiring from the local community and including community stakeholders in program planning and implementation.</li> <li>High-performing collaborations and partnerships help to achieve the program's goals, gain credibility within the target community, ensure delivery of services and leverage resources.</li> <li>Program demonstrates centralized methods to collect, coordinate, manage and share information on patient enrollment, diagnoses, stratification, treatments and treatment plans, referrals, utilization and outcomes across health care teams. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Example:</b> "Since 2010, L.A. Care has generated and distributed individual physician reports that include a list of physicians' assigned members who have recently visited CHLA ER, along with members' diagnosis information. The QI Director presented this initiative at the Fall 2011 National Association of Healthcare Quality conference to demonstrate an initiative of collaboration to reduce ER utilization."</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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## Area 1.c Environmental Management

### 1.c Environmental Management (30 points)

Describe the components of your asthma program that address environmental management.

Application Guidelines	Evaluation Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the range of environmental-focused services and interventions that are available to address asthma patients' at different risk levels. Examples of services may include provider-based or home-based self-management education; outreach to increase awareness and control of environmental asthma triggers via telephonic case management; home environmental remediation assessment; home equipment or supplies; and other environmental management strategies</li> <li>Explain who conducts the services, the frequency of contact and duration of engagement, and the information that is communicated between the home visitors and the provider.</li> <li>If your program has an in-home intervention component, what percentage of patients in your asthma program receives in-home interventions?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental management is addressed throughout the continuum of care.</li> <li>NIH EPR-3 Guidelines are incorporated throughout the continuum of care, and the program assesses asthma severity to initiate therapy, provides self-management education and encourages use of an asthma action plan, integrates education into all points of care where health professionals interact with patients and selects medication and delivery devices to meet each patient's need and circumstances. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Example:</b> "We have partnered with a nationally known author, Michelle Bain, to create a book for teens that address asthma awareness and management, <i>Off the Chain - It's All About Asthma....</i>The publication provides practical information on controlling asthma, including avoidance of environmental triggers and the impact of environmental factors. The book is written with the intent to appeal to a diverse group of ethnicities, personalities and interests. All images and graphics are designed to be very topic specific, memorable and humorous to the teen reader. Additionally we offer our comprehensive asthma book, <i>On Target with Your Asthma</i>. Both books are available in English and Spanish, as well as in an audio format that can be loaded onto MP3 players or smart phones to be listened to at the member's convenience."</li> </ul> </li> <li>The program provides follow up to initial environmental assessment to ensure adherence to recommendations and comprehension of educational materials.</li> <li>The applicant identifies mechanisms to ensure effective and timely communication and collaboration among multidisciplinary teams (e.g., primary care physicians, specialists, case managers, community partners) responsible for implementing the comprehensive asthma program.</li> </ul>





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## Area 2. Getting Results – Evaluating the Program

### Area 2. Getting Results – Evaluating the Program (15 points)

Describe how you capture and evaluate outcomes, and include the results you have achieved.

Application Guidelines	Evaluation Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discuss the measures your program tracks, including process measures, health outcome measures and costs.</li><li>• Describe how you track asthma patients (e.g., through an asthma registry, electronic medical records or other system to collect and analyze information on patient diagnoses, treatments, referrals, interventions, health care utilization and outcomes).</li><li>• If you have data specific to the effectiveness of in-home interventions, include this information.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Program tracks process measures (e.g., appropriate use of asthma medications, primary and specialty care visit rates).</li><li>• Program tracks health outcome measures, such as reduced hospitalizations and ER visits, improved quality of life and symptom-free days.</li><li>• Processes and procedures are incorporated into the program's design to ensure that evaluation (i.e., data collection and analysis) is a routine part of the asthma program.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Example:</b> "LA Cares About Asthma® annually measures HEDIS data on the Use of Appropriate Medications for People with Asthma and analyzes the data in comparison to previous years. Reports are generated by geographic region, age of members and asthma severity level. The ADM registry is used to track members on a monthly basis. Monthly reports including new members, current members and stratification changes are generated from the ADM to facilitate member interventions."</li></ul></li><li>• Program management includes analysis of costs or return on investment.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Example:</b> "On average, participants had a savings of \$3,833 per participant (\$319 PMPM)."</li></ul></li><li>• Program has achieved cost savings or positive return on investment compared to a baseline measurement.</li></ul>



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## Area 3. Sustaining the Program

### Area 3. Sustaining the Program (15 points)

Describe the environmental management services that are covered or, if coverage is not yet available, describe the effort that is under way to help establish coverage to sustain your asthma program's environmental components.

Application Guidelines	Evaluation Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Describe the environmental components for asthma care that are covered under your plan types or the strategies that are in place to help achieve coverage for environmental components in the near future.</li><li>If applicable, describe payment and delivery models (e.g. shared savings, PCMHs, ACOs, etc.) currently in place to improve the quality of care for patients with asthma.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Long-term strategies for sustaining the environmental management components of the asthma program are in place.</li><li>Program communicates cost savings data, both internally and externally.</li><li>Program contains an effective payment and delivery model for environmental asthma services, or a commitment to making plans for coverage of these services a reality through concerted efforts and practices.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Example:</b> "LA Cares About Asthma® is funded as part of L.A. Care Health Plan's budget. Funding provided to CBOs for in-home asthma visitation programs are reimbursed at an established case rate, inclusive of all visits, follow up phone calls, and environmental management supplies and tools provided to members. The Harbor-UCLA MFI contract is reimbursed at the Medi-Cal (Medicaid) fee-for-service rate for services provided to high-risk asthma members."</li></ul></li></ul>