**2024 CQII Quality Award Categories and Selection Criteria**

The 2024 Center for Quality Improvement & Innovation (CQII) Quality Award Program recognizes Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP) recipients, subrecipients, organizations, and individuals who have made outstanding progress in improving HIV care by implementing and sustaining quality improvement (QI) activities. The aim is to celebrate successes, increase the visibility of quality champions, and provide real world examples of QI other HIV programs could aspire to achieve.

The 2024 CQII Quality Award criteria for each award category are presented in a checklist format to provide further guidance on what is considered a very strong applicant. Strong applications will have most, if not all, criteria checked off in the corresponding award category. Individuals and organizations that are new to QI (defined as less than two years of QI experience) are encouraged to submit applications using the categories listed below and indicating their ‘New to Quality Improvement’ status on the application form.

**2024 Application Link**: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5GRTBMN>

Please note that the 2024 CQII Quality Award Program winners will be highlighted on the TargetHIV website, which is a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB) website that offers one-stop shopping for technical assistance (TA) and training resources for HRSA's RWHAP, the federal program that funds local and state agencies to deliver HIV care for people with HIV who are uninsured or underinsured. Winners may be asked to share their QI expertise on future CQII TA webinars, and potentially participate in the recording of an upcoming CQII Quality Academy tutorial.

**A) Measurable Improvements in HIV Care**

This Quality Award recognizes a RWHAP recipient, subrecipient, or a group of recipients that has/have made impressive measurable improvements over time by addressing emergent issues and sustaining their improvement efforts. The successful applicant is expected to have an established process to collect and analyze (e.g., calculate the numerator, denominator, and percentage) performance measure data at least quarterly, identify the underlying root causes of emerging issues, specify the specific improvement interventions that were undertaken to achieve the measurable improvements, and outline sustainability efforts. The improvement effort should have a direct, positive impact on the health outcomes of people with HIV.

Successful applications are expected to include the following:

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| --- | --- |
| **Check** | **Criteria** |
|  | Rationale for choosing the specific improvement focus area and how this topic was relevant to the people with HIV who the recipient, subrecipient, or a group of recipients serve |
|  | Description of the structured QI methodology used to improve performance of the emergent issue and effective use of QI tools |
|  | Use of a cross-disciplinary improvement team, including people with HIV, to work on the QI project  |
|  | Routine collection of relevant performance data and how the results were routinely analyzed to generate momentum for improvements in HIV care  |
|  | Measurable improvements over the course of the improvement project that demonstrate the impact of the improvement results  |
|  | Detailed description of the QI interventions and/or change ideas that have been successfully implemented leading to improvements in patient health outcomes |
|  | Involvement of staff and people with HIV in all aspects of the improvement process to plan, manage, implement, and sustain the improvement project |
|  | Establishment of a system to sustain gains and continued improvements over time |

**B) Involvement of People with HIV in Quality Improvement**

This Quality Award is given to a RWHAP recipient, subrecipient, or group of recipients that has/have effectively incorporated people with HIV into local or regional QI efforts, or to a person with HIV or group of people with HIV who has/have demonstrated outstanding commitment to partner with recipient(s) or subrecipient(s) to improve HIV care. Involvement of people with HIV includes the implementation of QI efforts based on input from and involvement of people with HIV in QI projects, or the designation of a person with HIV as the team leader. The application should outline the methodology used for continued involvement of people with HIV and showcase measurable outcomes.

Successful applications are expected to include the following:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Check** | **Criteria** |
|  | Demonstration of the active and meaningful participation of people with HIV in ongoing clinical quality management program activities and QI efforts |
|  | Demonstration of the impact of the involvement of people with HIV on measurable improvements in HIV care |
|  | Description of how people with HIV who participate in QI activities are supported and receive the necessary training to be equal partners in improving HIV care |
|  | Description of how people with HIV participated, co-produced, or led QI projects |
|  | Commitment by people with HIV to be QI advocates for other people with HIV within the program, within the community, and across the region |

**C) Leadership in Quality Improvement**

This Quality Award is given to a RWHAP recipient, subrecipient, group of recipients, or individual(s) who has/have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to QI on the local, regional, or national level. The long-standing dedication to QI by the applicant has resulted in the implementation of effective and sustainable clinical quality management programs, innovative QI initiatives with measurable results that have benefited HIV clients, or regional improvement efforts to work across a network of HIV organizations.

Successful applications are expected to include the following:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Check** | **Criteria** |
|  | Establishment of a “culture of quality” in a local HIV agency or across a network of HIV providers as a result of the leadership commitment  |
|  | Effective leadership in QI as evidenced by demonstrable results in advancing local or regional QI initiatives leading to significant improvements in patient care or health outcomes |
|  | Detailed description of how the different levels of management in the organization or regional providers are active participants in QI efforts  |
|  | Promotion of transparency in all aspects in quality management (e.g., performance measurement, QI projects, QI training, etc.) and openly sharing results and findings of all improvement activities |
|  | Demonstration of how available QI resources are optimized to establish sustainable QI activities |

**Contact Information**

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<https://targethiv.org/cqii/cqii-quality-award-program>