

**January 30, 2025**

## **Health Services Cost Review Commission Announces Winners of the Advancing Innovation in Maryland (AIM) Contest**

**Baltimore, MD** — The Health Services Cost Review Commission (HSCRC) is announcing the winners of the **Advancing Innovation in Maryland (AIM) Contest**. **This initiative was launched** to surface innovative ideas to improve patient care and promote the affordability of healthcare in Maryland.

The AIM Contest leverages Maryland’s unique health care model, which creates opportunities to invest in preventive health care. Winning ideas proposed new ways to prevent asthma attacks, diabetic complications, overdoses, strokes, and other major health challenges. The authors of the winning ideas reflect Maryland's health care community, including students, nurses, physicians, and faith leaders, from Western Maryland to the Eastern Shore.

Launched last fall in partnership with the Maryland Department of Health, the Abell Foundation, and the Horizon Foundation, the AIM Contest attracted more than 40 submissions statewide. An experienced and independent panel of judges evaluated proposals and selected ten winners.

“The AIM contest demonstrates that there is no shortage of great ideas in Maryland health care,” said Jon Kromm, Executive Director of the HSCRC. “This contest will serve as a spark for the Commission and the health care sector to pursue innovation in care delivery to support better health at lower cost across the state.”

### Winning Ideas

The winning entries include a variety of ideas to improve health and healthcare in Maryland. The ideas propose:

- **Improving obstetric care**, through a statewide approach to providing maternal care in pediatric clinics to reduce gaps in post-partum care. (Ananya Dewan, medical student, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine)
- **Supporting patients with diabetes**, through a “diabetic door dash” program that combines medical care, nutritional support and social services. (Ethan Feldmiller, program manager, Meritus School of Osteopathic Medicine).
- **Reaching isolated patients**, with a “well wheels” program to reimagine physician house calls by using mobile health care teams across the state. (Ethan Feldmiller, program manager, Meritus School of Osteopathic Medicine).
- **Improving coordination of care for patients with opioid use disorder**, by integrating information about treatment with methadone into the state’s health information exchange. (Will Garneau, internist, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine).
- **Coordinating care and advancing prevention in communities**, with community health workers based in faith institutions and community centers partnering with major healthcare systems. (Rev. Terris King, Liberty Grace Church of God.)

- **Identifying strokes early**, through a statewide “tele-dizzy” consultation service for patients with dizziness and vertigo. (David Newman-Toker, neurologist, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine)
- **Using paramedics to provide community care**, through a nurse-practitioner-led mobile community paramedicine program that connects a hospital with a Fire Department. (Katherine Rodgers, director of Community Health Initiatives, Tidal Health)
- **Developing a neighborhood nursing program** that links every resident with a registered nurse and health worker who provide access to comprehensive health and social care. (Sarah Szanton, Dean, Johns Hopkins School of Nursing)
- **Preventing falls among frail elderly**, through a home-based intervention that aims to improve physical function, mental health and overall well being. (Sarah Dzanton, Dean Johns Hopkins School of Nursing)
- **Sharing information to asthma care**, through an initiative to post asthma plans in the state’s health information exchange. (Megan Tschudy, pediatrician, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine)

#### Next Steps

Each winning proposal will have the opportunity to present at a future HSCRC meeting for discussion and further consideration. The prize for a winning idea is \$1000, supported by the Horizon Foundation, is payable to the individual or to a nonprofit organization that they designate.

“The winning proposals highlight that big ideas are alive and well in Maryland,” said Nikki Highsmith Vernick, President and CEO of the Horizon Foundation in Columbia, Maryland. “We look forward to further discussion of these innovations to improve the lives of our residents and community members.”

The HSCRC extends its gratitude to all participants and judges for their dedication to fostering healthcare innovation. Special thanks to the Abell Foundation, the Horizon Foundation, and to the Mosaic Group for their support in administering the AIM Contest.

For more information about the AIM Contest and the upcoming presentations, please visit:

<https://hscrc.maryland.gov/Pages/AIM.aspx>