



MEDICARE  
SHARED SAVINGS  
PROGRAM

# Webinar

## Making the Most of Phase 1 RFI-1

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July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Medicare Shared Savings Program



# Disclaimer

This presentation was current at the time it was published or uploaded onto the web. Medicare policy changes frequently, so links to the source documents have been provided in this document for your reference. This presentation was prepared as a service to the public and is not intended to grant rights or impose obligations. This presentation may contain references or links to statutes, regulations, or other policy materials. The information provided is only intended to be a general summary. It is not intended to take the place of either the written law or regulations. We encourage readers to review the specific statutes, regulations, and other interpretive materials for a full and accurate statement of their contents. This communication was printed, published, or produced and disseminated at U.S. taxpayer expense.



# Housekeeping

- Everyone was muted when you joined today's session.
- Put any questions you have during the presentation into the Q&A section of the webinar.
- Closed captioning is available by clicking the CC logo on the bottom panel.
- If time allows, we'll be answering application and change request questions that we received from the registration submissions as well as those you pose today.
  - If you have questions related to quality reporting, please send those questions directly to [QPP@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:QPP@cms.hhs.gov).
  - Any ACO-specific questions or any questions we do not get to today should be directed to your ACO Coordinator or to the Shared Savings Program Helpdesk [sharesavingsprogram@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:sharesavingsprogram@cms.hhs.gov).
- Provide feedback via the post-attendee survey.



# Webinar Presenters



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# Agenda

- Upcoming Deadlines & Available Actions
- Resolving Common Deficiencies & Navigating ACO-MS
- Leveraging the Application Cycle Subtab and Participation Options Report
- Q&A Session



# Important Dates

1

**Submit Phase 1 of  
the Application**

**Opens:** May 20, 2024  
**Due:** June 17, 2024

2

**Respond to  
Phase 1 RFI-1**

**Opens:** July 11, 2024  
**Due:** Aug. 1, 2024

3

**Respond to  
Phase 1 RFI-2**

**Opens:** Aug. 22, 2024  
**Due:** Sept. 5, 2024

4

**Phase 1  
Dispositions**

**Issued:** Oct. 17, 2024

5

**Submit Phase 2 of  
the Application**

**Opens:** Oct. 18, 2024  
**Due:** Oct. 29, 2024

6

**Respond to  
Phase 2 RFI**

**Opens:** Nov. 8, 2024  
**Due:** Nov. 18, 2024

7

**Final Application  
Dispositions**

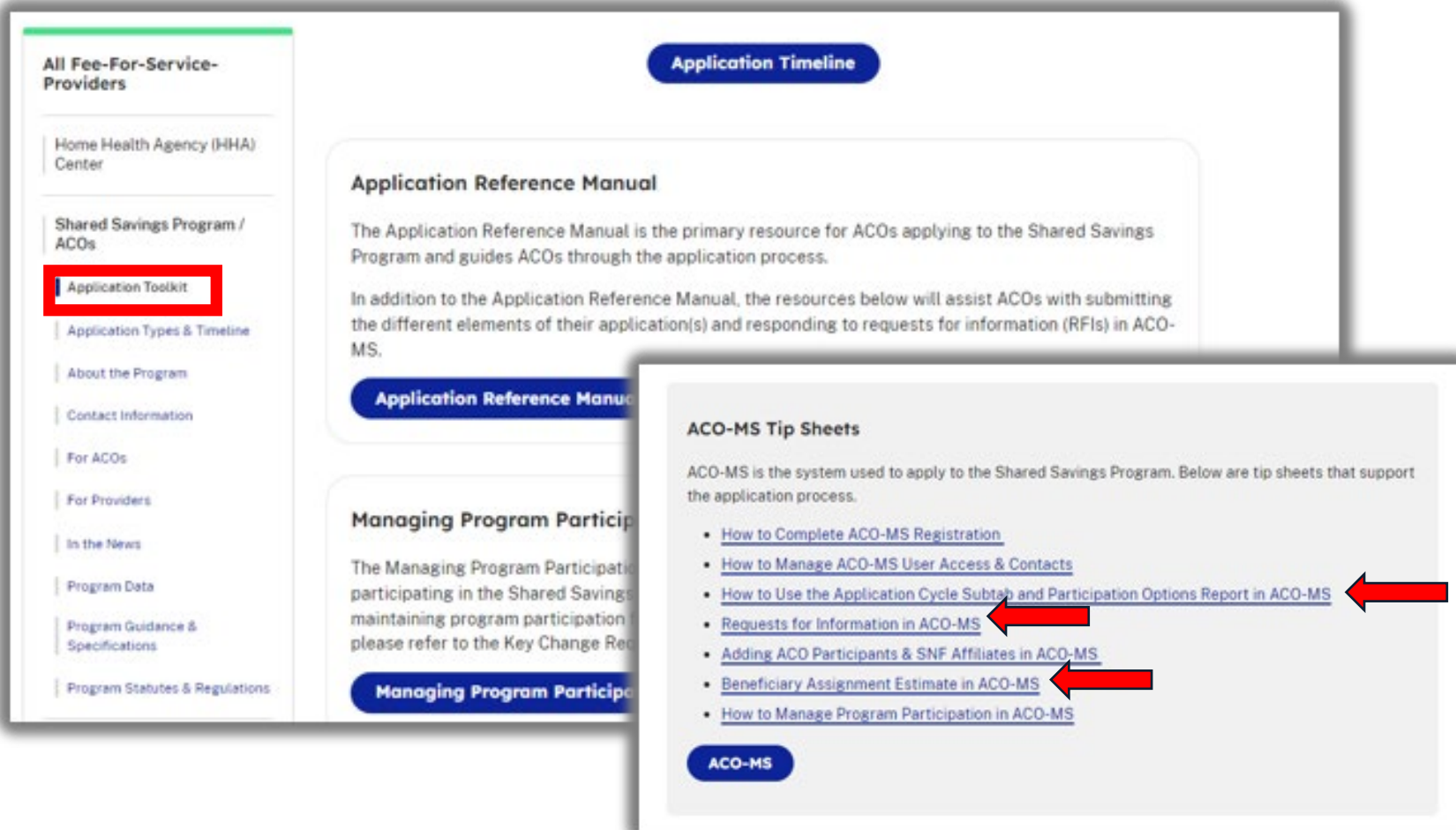
**Issued:** Dec. 5, 2024

8

**ACO Signing  
Event**

**Opens:** Dec. 6, 2024  
**Due:** Dec. 12, 2024

# Helpful Tip Sheets for RFI-1



The screenshot displays the CMS website interface. On the left, a navigation menu under "All Fee-For-Service-Providers" includes "Shared Savings Program / ACOs" and "Application Toolkit" (highlighted with a red box). The main content area features an "Application Timeline" header and sections for "Application Reference Manual" and "Managing Program Participation". An inset window titled "ACO-MS Tip Sheets" lists several resources, with red arrows pointing to "Requests for Information in ACO-MS", "Adding ACO Participants & SNF Affiliates in ACO-MS", and "Beneficiary Assignment Estimate in ACO-MS".

**Application Timeline**

**Application Reference Manual**

The Application Reference Manual is the primary resource for ACOs applying to the Shared Savings Program and guides ACOs through the application process.

In addition to the Application Reference Manual, the resources below will assist ACOs with submitting the different elements of their application(s) and responding to requests for information (RFIs) in ACO-MS.

**Application Reference Manual**

**Managing Program Participation**

The Managing Program Participation... participating in the Shared Savings... maintaining program participation... please refer to the Key Change Rec...

**Managing Program Participa...**

**ACO-MS Tip Sheets**

ACO-MS is the system used to apply to the Shared Savings Program. Below are tip sheets that support the application process.

- [How to Complete ACO-MS Registration](#)
- [How to Manage ACO-MS User Access & Contacts](#)
- [How to Use the Application Cycle Subtab and Participation Options Report in ACO-MS](#)
- [Requests for Information in ACO-MS](#)
- [Adding ACO Participants & SNF Affiliates in ACO-MS](#)
- [Beneficiary Assignment Estimate in ACO-MS](#)
- [How to Manage Program Participation in ACO-MS](#)

**ACO-MS**



# Phase 1 RFI-1 for Applicant ACOs

- ✓ Section 1: ACO Information
  - ✓ Your ACO cannot edit responses in Phase 1 Section 1 during the Phase 1 RFI-1 Response Period.
- ✓ Section 2: Program Participation
  - ✓ Your ACO can edit responses in Phase 1 Section 2 during the Phase 1 RFI-1 Response Period. This includes:
    - Track and Level of Participation
    - Minimum Savings Rate (MSR)/Minimum Loss Rate (MLR)
    - Beneficiary Assignment Methodology
  - ✓ Your ACO can respond to RFIs for the previously submitted information including:
    - ACO Participant List
    - Banking Information
    - Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) 3-Day Waiver Application
    - SNF Affiliates
    - Repayment Mechanism (RM)
- ✓ Section 3: Certification
  - ✓ If your ACO makes changes to your application, you should certify and re-submit the application after these edits are complete.





# Additional Actions Available

## During this period, your ACO can take the following actions:

- Review Participation Options Report in ACO-MS
- Complete SNF 3-Day Rule Waiver Application\*
- Submit Repayment Mechanism documentation\*
- Correct any deficiencies identified by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and/or modify responses submitted within Section 2 of your Phase 1 application task

## Phase 1 RFI-1 is the Final Opportunity to:

- Add ACO participant and/or SNF affiliate TINs
- Elect to apply for a SNF 3-Day Rule Waiver\*

\*Indicates the requirement only applies to certain ACOs.

# Change Request Cycle Actions

## Actions Available

- Elect to remain in Level A of the BASIC track\* or voluntarily elect a higher level within the BASIC track's glide path
- Select MSR/MLR\*
- Change beneficiary assignment methodology
- Update Form CMS-588 EFT Authorization Agreement Package
- Elect to apply for a SNF 3-Day Rule Waiver\*
- Submit RM documentation\*
- Upload executed agreements and merger/acquisition documentation and if applicable change the merged/acquired indicator on pending change requests

\*Indicates the requirement only applies to certain ACOs.

## Key Reminders

- Review the Participation Options Report in ACO-MS
- Correct any deficiencies identified by CMS

## The Final Opportunity to:

- Add ACO participant and/or SNF affiliate TINs
- Elect to apply for a SNF 3-Day Rule Waiver\*



## Next Steps

- ✓ Respond to RFI-1 by submitting your corrected documents and/or information by August 1, 12:00 p.m. ET (noon).
- ✓ Phase 1 RFI-2: August 22 - September 5 at 12:00 p.m. (noon) ET
- ✓ Phase 1 Final Dispositions: October 17, 2024
  - ACOs with less than 5,000 beneficiaries will not continue to Phase 2.
  - ACOs will be notified if eligible to participate in AIP.



# Last Chance for Phase 1 RFI-1

Phase 1 RFI-1 ends on August 1<sup>st</sup> at 12:00 p.m. (noon) ET



**The final opportunity to do the following:**

- Add a TIN to an ACO Participant List and/or SNF Affiliate List.
- Elect to apply for a SNF 3-Day Rule Waiver\*

\*Indicates the requirement only applies to certain ACOs.

# ACO Primary Care Flex Model

- For ACOs interested in applying for the ACO PC Flex Model, visit their [website](#).
- The ACO PC Flex Request for Application (RFA) is due August 1<sup>st</sup>.



# Resources to Bookmark

## Published Resources Available!



- [Application Toolkit](#): Quick access to guidance and other materials relevant to all application types.
- [Application Types & Timeline Webpage](#): Key deadlines and resources to help complete the application including sample applications.
- [Knowledge Library](#): Access to resources relevant to all Shared Savings Program ACOs located in ACO-MS.

# Question & Answer Session

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Additional questions can be sent to your ACO Coordinator or to the Shared Savings Program Helpdesk:  
[shedsavingsprogram@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:shedsavingsprogram@cms.hhs.gov).



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# Question & Answer

## Question 1:

If our participant agreement mentions prior ACO cycle dates, do we need to execute a new agreement?





# Question & Answer

## Question 2:

Can the amount on our letter of credit be higher than the required repayment mechanism amount?



# Question & Answer

## **Question 3:**

For an ACO that has less  
5,000 beneficiaries and  
wants to add more, when is  
the last date that the ACO  
can add participants?



# Question & Answer

## Question 4:

Our ACO received an overlap deficiency on a change request for a potential ACO participant. However, the ACO Participant insists they are not participating with the other ACO. What can we do?



# Question & Answer

**Question 5:**  
My application did not receive  
an RFI. Do I need to do  
anything?



# Question & Answer

## Question 6:

Does our renewing ACO need to replace our existing repayment mechanism if the new required repayment mechanism amount is lower?





# Upcoming Webinar



## SAVE THE DATE!

Upcoming CMS Shared Savings Program Webinar



**Finalizing Phase 1 & Preparing for Phase 2**

Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. ET

*Mark your calendars—more details to come!*

# Post-Attendee Survey

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