

# The DSRIP Digest

*“At the end of the day, we must have optimism. We must believe that what we are trying to achieve, both within individual organizations and PPS-wide, is in fact possible.”*

-Jason Helgeson, NYS Medicaid Director

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## PPS Spotlight:

### North Country Initiative's (NCI) Workforce Strategy

The ability to recruit, retain and educate an adequate supply of healthcare workers in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties is a critical healthcare priority widely recognized among providers and community members in the Tug Hill Seaway. There are various workforce shortages and recruitment obstacles in the region, ranging from primary care physicians to psychiatrists to nursing assistants. Since 2008, the Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization's Recruitment Program has significantly increased education access and career opportunities for students, local community members and health care professionals to build a high quality regional healthcare workforce, which is essential to the long-term health and viability of the region.

NCI PPS is leveraging the work of this Regional Recruitment Program. The Program builds upon this body of knowledge to develop a full career pathway for local students, which results in a trained group of professionals to fill local jobs. The pathway includes generating a pipeline of local students committed to healthcare, bringing degree and training programs to the region for them to access, sponsoring clinical rotations, and providing networking opportunities for local healthcare professionals.

Through several strategic initiatives, the Recruitment Program has brought millions of dollars of grant funding to the community and considerable economic value through the addition of Bachelor's and Master's level prepared professionals into the workforce, recruitment of students to the community for local clinical placements and connecting students within the community to jobs and concrete jobs skills. These initiatives have been enhanced and expanded over the years, as the need and demand for healthcare professionals continues to grow and change with the use of advanced health information technology and the increasing gaps that exist due to an aging workforce.

NCI's ongoing efforts to provide coordinated, patient centered care across providers will be challenged greatest by the shortage of primary and behavioral health care. As a result, patients often experience barriers to accessing care, lack an assigned provider, or lack the ability to receive appointments in a timely manner. These challenges are being addressed through the PPS's plan to grow primary care capacity, to back up providers so that each clinician can operate at the top of their license with maximum efficiency, through the integration of primary care and behavioral health which expands access points of care to meet the patient where they are, and through the utilization of telehealth to expand options for access to care. Utilizing DSRIP funds, the NCI Provider Incentive Program was created. To date, the NCI has distributed approximately \$3 million dollars to assist PPS Partners with the recruitment of 11 new Primary Care Physicians, 3 Nurse Practitioners, 2 Physician Assistants, 2 Psychologists, 2 Psychiatrists, and 2 Dentists within the past year. In addition, there are plans to explore regional expansion of Graduate Medical Education. Through the use of DSRIP funds, residency spots at the local GME Program are financially supported, thus affording residents the opportunity to explore various facilities within the region and in turn, requiring a commitment from the resident for at least three years to serve in the Tug Hill Seaway region. This is a win-win-win for the patient, providers and community.

#### For more information, contact:

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## Recent News

The DSRIP Team announced that the Independent Assessor (IA), completed its reviews of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter reports of DSRIP Year 1, covering all PPS activity through March 31, 2016. Following the validation of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter reports of DSRIP Year 1, the total funds earned by PPS for DSRIP Year 1 was \$1,201,126,181 out of a possible \$1,207,936,151 (99.44%) for all funds.

The Department of Health (DOH) hosted public comment day forums on New York's 1115 Waiver Program. During these meetings, members of the DSRIP Project Approval and Oversight Panel and DOH staff listened to feedback provided by members of the public and stakeholders. The Public Comment Day forums were held on May 4, 2016 and July 12, 2016. Public comment information and meeting webcasts can be accessed [here](#).

The VBP Bootcamps are a regional learning series which provide knowledge necessary to implement NYS Payment Reform. Registration and live webcasts are available for Sessions 1, 2, and 3 of Region 1 (Capital Region, Mid-Hudson, and the Southern Tier) via the [DSRIP VBP Bootcamp web page](#).

## Upcoming Events

### August 1

Initiate Mid-Point Assessment for PPS

### August 3

DY1 third DSRIP payment to PPS

### August 8

Re-opening of PPS performance networks in MAPP

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