

Navigating Change:

How Aledade Facilitated \$2 Million in Grants for Data Exchange Compliance



Challenge

California's independent primary care practices and health centers faced a critical juncture recently: aligning with the state's new Data Exchange Framework (DxF) law.

Mandated by the state, the DxF represents an important step in expanding coverage, advancing equity and ensuring that every Californian has increased access to the most up-to-date information on their health. The initiative also aims to give physicians comprehensive insights into patients' health histories and social drivers of health, especially in vulnerable populations.

However, the implementation of the DxF required significant investment in electronic health record (EHR) technology, which posed logistical and financial challenges for primary care organizations. Statewide, practices and health centers faced the daunting task of meeting regulatory mandates while maintaining operational efficiency and quality care delivery.



Solution

Aledade's California state policy committee, a group of highly engaged physicians, clinicians and administrative staff, collaborated with the California Medical Association (CMA) to provide guidance to practices and health centers on the intricacies of the mandate. The committee also advised on key steps in applying for DxF grants, which were available through the state to subsidize doctors' EHR improvements.

In tandem with these efforts, the Aledade Policy Team, comprising federal and state policy experts, facilitated multiple information sessions that helped California doctors fully understand the DxF and the value of its grant program.

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“In our state policy committee meetings, we were able to talk through the upcoming requirements for the DxF law and grant opportunities to get practices up and running,” said Senior Analyst John Molera, who leads the committee. “Prior to these efforts, many of our practices did not even know these grant opportunities existed. Without this support, many small and independent practices would’ve missed out on tens of thousands of dollars to help them comply with the state’s new law.”

The committee also advised practices on critical data transformation resources and how to put grant dollars to good use.

“The guidance that we received from Aledade helped us realize not just how this grant could be used to upgrade our EHR technology, but also how it could give us the chance to grow our practice by hiring employees who specialize in data sharing,” said Thomas Dawes, MD, owner of Dawes Family Medicine in Santa Maria. “These Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) Grants are essential to deliver high quality medical and psychiatric care in a geographic area that is underserved while improving data and the information exchange in a secure and thoughtful manner.”

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Dr. Thomas Dawes,
Santa Maria, Ca.



Results

In all, more than 75 Aledade partner practices earned grants ranging from \$20,000 to \$50,000 for EHR technology adoption, totaling an estimated \$2 million. This substantial investment not only enhances the organizations’ technological abilities but gives medical teams additional data and insights to deliver more effective value-based care.

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“As physicians, we all know that communication between different service providers is key to providing excellent health care,” said Srividya Venkataraman, MD, MPH, an independent family medicine physician in Long Beach. “But that process to adopt meaningful EHR technology can be arduous. That’s why I am grateful to Aledade for helping make this process clear and simple.”

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Today, Aledade’s California partner practices are empowered with the information they need to deliver safe and effective care, all while maintaining the privacy and security of patient data.

“Aledade has a track record of helping our physician practices navigate the complex world of health care,” said Gavin White, Aledade’s California market president.

“By providing expert counsel on policies and EHR adoption, we also are delivering on our promise as a Public Benefit Corporation to create a health care system that is good for patients, good for practices and good for society.”



Get the support you need to navigate an ever-changing health care landscape. Start now at www.aledade.com.