

## CMS Provider Screening Challenge Questions and Answers

1. What is the purpose of this initiative and why is this method of value to taxpayers?

The Challenge.gov approach has been used by a number of Federal agencies. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has used this approach for several years and will be collaborating with CMS on this project. The results from NASA have demonstrated that successful results are obtained at a reduced cost while delivering the solution in a shorter timeframe.

2. Will CMS be issuing an RFP?

No, the solution will be developed using an innovator “Challenge” approach. By using a “Challenge” approach, we intend to invite a large and diverse “community of solvers” to produce innovative and creative solutions that can deliver a reliable, scalable, and economic provider screening capability for multiple states (or even the nation), as well other federal health programs. The “Challenge” approach allows us to articulate a set of goals and objectives rather than specifying a particular approach or predicting, based on a proposal, which of multiple competing approaches will produce the best business result. In the end, we reward only for the solution or solutions that work best against our overall goals and objectives.

3. What do I do to participate in the Challenge?

In order to participate in a contest, participants will need to register at the following website managed by TopCoder:

<http://community.topcoder.com/coeci>

4. Will the website provide information on what a participant is to generate?

Once registered, participants will be directed to a list of contests covering all phases of the software development life cycle. Each contest describes requirements for scope, functionality and technology, and includes a list of deliverables required for submission. Based on the contest requirements, participants will determine if they have the expertise, time and interest to generate the specific deliverables required in order to be eligible for winning the prize.

5. Since this is a solution for State Medicaid programs will States be participating in an active role on the project?

Yes. Although this program is being directed and managed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), States shall be able to participate via a State engagement model that has been developed for the effort. However, CMS will be making the final determinations on contest winners. States that are interested in participating in the Challenge can contact Tom Baden, Chief Information Officer, Minnesota Department of Human Resources, at [thomas.baden@state.mn.us](mailto:thomas.baden@state.mn.us) for more information on this topic.

6. Can businesses participate in this challenge?

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Yes, businesses can participate. Businesses will need to register to become part of the TopCoder community. Businesses will be subject to the same evaluation of solution components as are individuals and the prize amounts do not vary based on individuals or businesses.

7. How is the payment amount determined? Can I negotiate for the amount?

The prize amount for contest winners is predetermined and is posted on the project specific website for each specific contest. Winners cannot negotiate a different amount for the prize payment.

8. Who do we contact if we have questions regarding a contest submission?

The website for the contests has links for participants to access. The links will provide them with message forums in which to review responses to previous questions and to ask new questions. They will also provide contact information should contestants have questions regarding a specific contest, or about becoming a participant.

9. How is this contest helpful for States that plan on using Medicare provider screening and enrollment determinations for providers dually enrolled in Medicare and Medicaid?

Given the variation in services provided by Medicare and Medicaid, State Medicaid programs have agreements with a wide range of professionals that do not necessarily participate in Medicare. Such professionals include pediatricians, dentists, midwives, and non-emergency transportation providers. Given this variation, we believe solutions that are Medicaid-focused are needed to account for these professionals. Such products will likely provide a wider range of capability including a solution designed to screen professionals unique to Medicaid.