Connecticut's TEFT Grant

What is the TEFT Grant?

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is promoting the use of health information technology within the community-based Long Term Services and Supports system. In 2014, CMS announced awards for the TEFT (Testing Experience and Functional Tools) grant to introduce health IT into this population. The TEFT grant is designed to field test an experience of care survey and a set of functional assessment items, as well as demonstrate the use of personal health records, and finally to contribute to the creation of a standard electronic long term services and supports record, all of which Connecticut will be participating in.

Connecticut is one of only nine (9) states to be admitted participation in the program, and one of only six (6) states awarded funding to administer all four components of the grant. The expected outcomes of the TEFT grant program include the creation of national measures and valuable feedback on how health information technology can be implemented in this portion of the Medicaid system, to best serve the LTSS population.

The University of Connecticut Center for Quantitative Medicine and Center on Aging are collaborating with the Connecticut Department of Social Services to successfully implement the four components of the TEFT grant. The Center on Aging will participate in the field testing of both the Experience of Care survey and the Care Assessment Tool. The Center for Quantitative Medicine will contribute to the selection, development, and offering of the Personal Health Record and the development of the S&I Framework components.

The TEFT grant presents a unique and exciting opportunity to explore and offer new services and supports to Connecticut's Long Term Care community.

TEFT Grant Participation: State of Connecticut
Components:
1. Experience of Care Survey
➢ Participating states will field test a beneficiary experience survey within multiple CB-LTSS programs for validity and reliability.
2. CARE Assessment Tool
➢ Participating states will field test a modified set of Continuity Assessment Record and Evaluation (CARE) functional assessment measures for use with beneficiaries of CB- LTSS programs.
3. Personal Health Records
➢ Participating states will select, offer, and demonstrate the use of personal health record (PHR) systems with beneficiaries of CB-LTSS.
4. Standards & Interoperability Framework for e-LTSS
➢ Participating states will collaborate to identify, evaluate and harmonize an electronic Long Term Services and Supports (e-LTSS) standard in conjunction with the Office of National Coordinator's (ONC) Standards and Interoperability (S&I) Framework.