Provider Network Expansion Fund
Program Description

SECTION I: OVERVIEW

The Inland Empire continues to have one of the lowest ratios for both Primary Care Physicians (PCP) and Specialists of all regions in the state of California. The Provider Network Expansion Fund (NEF) Program seeks to support entities demonstrating need for funding. The NEF Program is continuously focused on improving access to care by increasing membership capacity, supporting the placement of Providers in remote regions, filling network adequacy gaps, and building partnerships.

Established in 2014, NEF is the first program of its kind in the state of California. NEF supports the hiring of PCPs, Specialists, and Advanced Practice Providers (APP) to serve the Inland Empire. Our mission to heal and inspire the human spirit is the guiding force of IEHP's NEF Program. The NEF Program is committed in supporting entities who hire qualified candidates to serve as new access points for the Inland Empire. We will not rest until our communities enjoy optimal and vibrant health. The NEF Program continues to play a pivotal role in offering our Members a complete network of qualified Providers which promotes improved health outcomes and overall well-being.

SECTION II: FUNDING AVAILABILITY AND ALLOCATION

The funding available for PCPs, Specialists, and APPs are as stated below:

1. The subsidy for an APP is fifty percent (50%) of one-year cost to a maximum of $100,000 per practitioner.
2. The subsidy for a PCP is fifty percent (50%) of one-year cost to a maximum of $150,000 per physician.
3. The subsidy for a Specialist is fifty percent (50%) of one-year cost to a maximum of $200,000 per physician.
4. "Costs" as stated above are defined as a total of Provider salary and direct benefits only.
5. The funding will be made available after the hired Provider meets the following targets:

	Target I	Target II
PCP	The Candidate has been assigned a minimum of 250 IEHP Members, as measured by IEHP's panel assignment system, in excess of the Candidate's assigned Member count as of the Candidates effective date with IEHP.	The Candidate has achieved Tier 2 for Initial Health Appointment under IEHP's Global Quality Pay-for-Performance Program (GQP4P), as determined by IEHP in accordance with the program criteria then in effect for the applicable measurement period. Achievement of Target I is a prerequisite to disbursement of the Target II payment.

Specialists	The Candidate has completed a minimum of 250 visits with IEHP members, as measured by Rendering Physician claims submissions received and accepted by IEHP, in excess of any visits completed prior to the Candidate's effective date with IEHP.	The Candidate has completed a minimum of 500 an additional 250 visits with IEHP Members, as measured by Rendering Physician claims submissions received and accepted by IEHP, in excess of any visits completed prior to the Candidate's effective date with IEHP. Achievement of Target I is a prerequisite to disbursement of the Target II payment.
APP	The supervising physician designated on the Candidate's IEHP application has achieved Target I as set forth in the applicable row above. If the designated supervising physician separates from the Provider during the term of the MOU, Provider shall promptly notify IEHP and designate a replacement supervising physician, subject to IEHP's approval.	The supervising physician designated on the Candidate's IEHP application (or any IEHP-approved replacement) has achieved Target II as set forth in the applicable row above.

6. Fifty percent (50%) of the payment will be made after the hired Provider meets Target I. The remaining fifty percent (50%) of the payment will be made after the Provider meets Target II. Length of service will be calculated by Provider's IEHP effective date. For PCPs, payments will be made based on Membership assignment. For Specialists, payments will be made based on Rendering Physician claims submission.
7. The funding opportunity will be withdrawn through termination of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) if the entity is unable to hire the Provider within 6 months from the signing of the MOU. At which point, an alternate site, entity, and Provider type may be selected.
8. IEHP reserves the right to unilaterally withdraw the funding opportunity at any point in the process.

SECTION III: APPLICANT CRITERIA

Stated below are the criteria to be reviewed by IEHP for consideration of funding approval:

1. If the entity has an active breach, no new applications will be accepted or considered.
2. The overall NEF Program track record for the entity submitting candidate application(s) including but not limited to:
    a. Utilization
    b. Membership capacity

   c. Practice location(s)
   d. Referral volume
3. Hospitals and Urgent Care Centers do not qualify for funding. The Program focuses on supporting Providers who render services in an ambulatory or outpatient setting. The practices should be open to taking membership assignment or receiving referrals.
4. The funding justification letter is an opportunity to give a thorough description to help inform the Selection Committee of the entity's accomplishments and overall vision. The justification letter should also provide specific reasons for funding need including but not limited to current impacts on:
   a. Case load of current Providers at practice
   b. Work schedule/office hours
   c. Access times for appointments

SECTION IV: REQUIREMENTS OF FUNDING APPROVAL

Stated below are the requirements the Provider must fulfill upon being approved for NEF funding:

1. Physician and/or entity must be fully contracted with IEHP.
2. Physicians must be actively Board Certified or Board Eligible in the appropriate medical specialty.
3. Physician must successfully complete IEHP credentialing as approved specialty at approved location.
4. Provider must have an EMR/EHR and cooperate with IEHP in providing access to transmission of data to and from IEHP for IEHP Members.
5. Provider must utilize IEHP's E-auth process if contracted through IEHP Direct network.
6. Provider must be full-time and open to IEHP Medi-Cal and Medicare, with no Member limit or restrictions.
7. Provider must actively participate in the network for a minimum of three (3) years at the approved location.
8. Provider must be new to the Inland Empire medical community and must not have prior history with IEHP's network.
9. PCP must achieve Tier 2 for Initial Health Appointment of the Global Quality P4P PCP Program.
10. The hiring entity cannot have more than one active approval for the same specialty.
11. The contracting or hiring entity cannot use funds to replace a Provider who recently left the practice.
12. The contracting or employment entity will have to pay a pro-rated amount back to IEHP if the Provider leaves the practice prior to fulfilling the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding.

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SECTION V: SELECTION AND FUNDING PROCESS

The selection and funding process shall be as follows:

1. The Selection Committee for the Provider Network Expansion Fund shall consist of IEHP's Chief Operating Officer, Director of Provider Network, Manager of Provider Network, and Manager of Network Development.
2. The Selection Committee will approve sites, entities, and specific Provider types for funding.
3. Entities will be notified of the outcome of their application. If approved for funding, entities will be sent a Memorandum of Understanding which will serve as the Agreement between the approved entity and IEHP.
4. The hiring entity shall supply IEHP with a fully executed copy of the approved candidate's hiring agreement or equivalent for the purpose of salary and benefit verification.
5. Once benefit verification and amount of funding is determined, funding will be disbursed in two (2) payments in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding.