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Aligning Forces to Improve Health Care Quality

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation "Aligning Forces for Quality" proposals due by September 7

Princeton, N.J., June 2, 2006 – In an effort to help communities dramatically improve the quality of care for people with chronic illnesses, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) is seeking applicants for a new program designed to use market forces to drive quality improvements.

The three-year, \$10 million program, *Aligning Forces for Quality: The Regional Market Project*, will help communities advance and align three key drivers of quality improvement: performance measurement and public reporting; capacity to help providers improve the quality of ambulatory chronic illness care; and consumer demand.

"This is an exciting and challenging next step in quality improvement," said John Lumpkin, M.D., M.P.H., RWJF senior vice president and director, health care group. "We and others have supported a variety of projects and programs that have developed strategies and tools to improve health care quality, but in most cases, these efforts have worked in silos. *Aligning Forces* will help communities dramatically increase the number of people who get the care they need to manage their chronic conditions."

Aligning Forces for Quality will select up to six communities in a national competition. The program will accept only one proposal per community, and that proposal must represent a broad set of stakeholders. Selected communities will each receive grants of up to \$600,000 to use over three years, beginning in February 2007, for planning, convening, coordination and infrastructure development. In addition to their grant awards, the community grantees will also have access to a substantial pool of technical assistance support.

Patricia Powers, M.P.P.A., president and chief executive officer of the Center for Health Improvement will direct *Aligning Forces for Quality*. "We know that the quality of health care in America is not what it should be," said Ms. Powers. "The goal of *Aligning Forces for Quality* is to help communities build a system that not only drives, but sustains health care quality."

(more)

The *Aligning Forces for Quality* Call for Proposals is available online at the RWJF Web site, www.rwjf.org. The deadline for applicant registration is July 14, 2006, with full proposals due September 7, 2006. Potential applicants should contact the program at (916) 930-9200, or visit www.forces4quality.org for more information.

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About the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

www.rwjf.org

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation focuses on the pressing health and health care issues facing our country. As the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving the health and health care of all Americans, the Foundation works with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, meaningful and timely change. For more than 30 years the Foundation has brought experience, commitment, and a rigorous, balanced approach to the problems that affect the health and health care of those it serves. When it comes to helping Americans lead healthier lives and get the care they need, the Foundation expects to make a difference in your lifetime.

About the Center for Health Improvement

www.centerforhealthimprovement.org

The Center for Health Improvement (CHI) is a national, independent, nonprofit health policy center dedicated to improving population health and encouraging healthy behaviors. CHI uses evidence-based research as the basis for policy innovation and implementation. Since 1995, CHI has partnered with all levels of government, advocacy and community organizations, philanthropic foundations, and educators.