



Department of Health & Human Services  
Office of the National Coordinator for  
Health Information Technology

# The State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program

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National Health Information Exchange Summit



# American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

## TITLE XIII—HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

### SEC. 13001. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS OF TITLE

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This title (and title IV of division B) may be cited as the “Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act” or the “HITECH Act”.



## TITLE IV—MEDICARE AND MEDICAID HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY; MISCELLANEOUS MEDICARE PROVISIONS

### OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

### OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR FOR HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for “Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology”, \$2,000,000,000, to carry out title XIII of this Act, to remain available until expended: Pro-

# 3. The HITECH Act: Short-Term Prerequisites

- To achieve the vision of a transformed health system that health information technology (HIT) can facilitate, there are three critical short-term prerequisites:

## EHR Certification

- Clinicians and hospitals must acquire and implement certified EHRs in a way that fully integrates these tools into the care delivery process

## Technical, legal, and financial support

- Enable information to flow securely to wherever it is needed to support health care and population health

## Skilled workforce

- Support the adoption of EHRs, information exchange across health care providers and public health authorities, and the redesign of workflows within health care settings to gain the quality and efficiency benefits of EHRs while maintaining individual privacy and security

# The HITECH Act: Priority Grants Programs

- **The HITECH Act also authorizes several new grant programs to support adoption and use of EHRs through technical assistance, the capacity to exchange health information, and the availability of trained professionals to support these activities.**

## Health Information Technology Extension Program (Extension Program)

- Establish a collaborative consortium of Health Information Technology Regional Extension Centers (Regional Centers) facilitated by the national Health Information Technology Research Center (HITRC).

## State Grants to Promote Health Information Technology (State HIE Cooperative Agreements Program)

- Promote HIE that will advance mechanisms for information sharing across the health care system.

## Information Technology Professionals in Health Care (Workforce Program)

- Fund the training and development of a workforce that will meet short-term HITECH Act programmatic needs.

# Funding Amounts and Application Schedules

Regional Center Program						
Initial Cycle	Approx Funding	Preliminary Application	Preliminary Approval	Full Applications	Negotiations Begin	Decisions to Award
1	\$189,000,000	8-Sep-09	29-Sep-09	3-Nov-09	19-Nov-09	11-Dec-09
2	\$225,000,000	22-Dec-09	19-Jan-10	2-Mar-10	16-Mar-10	27-Apr-10
3	\$184,000,000	1-Jun-10	22-Jun-10	3-Aug-10	17-Aug-10	28-Sep-10
Total Amount of Funding Available:				\$598,000,000		
Award Floor/Ceiling:				\$1,000,000 to \$30,000,000		
Approximate Number of Awards:				70		
Program Period Length:				<b>Four-year project period with two budget periods</b>		

State HIE Program	
Total Amount of Funding Available:	\$564,000,000
Award Floor/Ceiling:	\$4,000,000 to \$40,000,000
Approximate Number of Awards:	56
Program Period Length	Four years
Letter of Intent	11-Sep-09, by 5:00pm EST
Application	16-Oct-09 by 5:00pm EST
Award Announcements	Early 2010
Estimated Start Date	Early 2010

# State HIE Program: Purpose

## Secure, Electronic Movement and Use of Health Information

- Facilitate and expand the secure, electronic movement and use of health information among organizations according to nationally recognized standards
  - The governance, policy and technical infrastructure supported through this program will enable standards-based HIE and a high performance health care system.

## Nationwide HIE Interoperability

- Federal-state collaboration aimed at the long-term goal of nationwide HIE and interoperability
  - ONC intends to award cooperative agreements to states or SDEs to meet local health care provider, community, state, public health and nationwide information needs.

## Statewide Policy, Governance, Technical Infrastructure and Business Practices

- Cooperative agreements will focus on developing the statewide policy, governance, technical infrastructure and business practices needed to support the delivery of HIE services
  - The resulting capabilities for healthcare-providing entities to exchange health information must meet the to-be-developed Medicaid and Medicare meaningful use requirements for health care providers to achieve financial incentives.

# Summary of State HIE Program

- This program is focused on preparing states to support their providers in achieving goals, objectives, and measures related to HIE.
- States participating in the State HIE Program will begin at different stages of maturity working towards interoperable HIE.
- Some will be fully operational, while others will just be starting to build the necessary capacity.

ONC will award one cooperative agreement per state (or group of states) to cover both planning and implementation of statewide health information exchange.

The process of building HIE capacity begins with states assessing their current state of readiness. Once a state determines from where it is starting, it can begin to map out a critical path to developing HIE for all health care providers throughout the state.

To enable an incremental approach, the work necessary for realizing HIE falls into five domains: governance, finance, technical infrastructure, business and technical operations, and legal/policy.

# State Role in State HIE Program

States will play a critical leadership role by determining a unified path and a model for exchange of health information that leverages existing regional and state efforts and is based on HHS-adopted standards and certification criteria.

States will be expected to use their authority, programs, and resources to:

- Determine roles and responsibilities of State Designated Entity (SDE), if desired
- Develop and implement Strategic and Operational Plans
- Develop state level directories and enable technical services for HIE within and across states.
- Remove barriers and create enablers for HIE, particularly those related to interoperability across laboratories, hospitals, clinician offices, health plans and other health information trading partners.
- Convene health care stakeholders to ensure trust in and support for a statewide approach to HIE.
- Ensure that an effective model for HIE governance and accountability is in place.
- Coordinate an integrated approach with Medicaid and state public health programs to enable information exchange and support monitoring of provider participation in HIE as required for Medicaid meaningful use incentives.
- Develop or update privacy and security requirements for HIE within and across state borders.



# State Plans – Strategic & Operational Plan

- **Section 3013 of the HITECH Act requires states or SDEs to submit, and receive approval of a “State Plan” in order to qualify for implementation funding. The Plan:**
  - Reflects the existing variety of HIE approaches and levels of readiness
  - Describes activities the state or SDE will complete to enable or implement HIE services that will allow for eligible providers to achieve success.
  - The State Plan consists of two deliverables, both of which shall be submitted by each state.
    - Strategic Plan
    - Operational Plan
- **Both the Strategic and the Operational Plans must be approved by the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology.**

# Coordination with Federally Funded Programs

## Medicare and Federally Funded, State Based Programs

- Plans describe the coordination activities with Medicare and relevant federally-funded state programs, including:
  - Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Cooperative Agreement Program (**CDC**)
  - Assistance for Integrating the Long-Term Care Population into State Grants to Promote Health IT
  - Implementation (**CMS/ASPE**)
  - HIV Care Grant Program Part B States/Territories Formula and Supplemental Awards/AIDS Drug Assistance Program Formula and Supplemental Awards (**HRSA**)
  - Maternal and Child Health State Systems Development Initiative programs (**HRSA**)
  - State Offices of Rural Health Policy (**HRSA**)
  - State Offices of Primary Care (**HRSA**)
  - State Mental Health Data Infrastructure Grants for Quality Improvement (**SAMHSA**)
  - State Medicaid/CHIP Programs
  - Emergency Medical Services for Children Program (**HRSA**)
  - **IHS** and tribal activity

## Federal Care Delivery Organizations

- When applicable, the Strategic Plan will include a description of the extent to which the various federal care delivery organizations will be participating in state activities related to HIE
- These organizations include but are not limited to:
  - **VA**
  - **DoD**
  - **IHS**
- This type of coordination is encouraged but not required

## Other ARRA Programs

- Because other ARRA funding will be available to the state that can help advance HIE, the Strategic Plan will describe, when applicable, coordination mechanisms with other relevant ARRA Programs including:
  - Regional Centers
  - Workforce Development Initiatives
  - Broadband Mapping and Access
- For planning purposes, applicants will specify:
  - How entities or collaboratives planning to be Regional Centers will provide technical assistance to health care providers in their states
  - How trained professionals from workforce development programs will be utilized to support statewide HIE
  - How plans to expand access to broadband will inform State Strategic and Operational Plans overtime
- Future guidance will be provided on coordinating with these programs

# HITECH: Coordination with Medicaid and ONC

- ONC and CMSO working very closely together
- Joint reviews of State Medicaid HIT Plans and State HIT Strategic and Operational Plans
- Coordinated feedback and communication with State leadership (HIT Coordinators and Medicaid Directors)
- Creating synergy among HITECH ONC programs and Medicaid meaningful use incentives and support to States
- Coordination on regulation development and other guidance

# HITECH: Coordination with Medicaid and ONC

- CMS guidance on planning conveys an expectation for coordination – how will Medicaid fit into overall landscape and support state HIE efforts
- ONC's solicitations convey the same expectation – how will HIE governance and implementation and HIT adoption support include Medicaid
- 90-10 match principles will reflect the statute and reinforce synergy of programs
  - Must support the implementation of meaningful use incentives
  - Support adoption of certified EHRs and promote HIE and quality
  - Cost allocation proportional to providers eligible for MU incentives

# Pending Regulations and Guidance

- CMS and ONC have two regulations open for comment:
  - Proposed Regulation on the definition of meaningful use
  - Interim Final Rule on adoption of standards and certification criteria
- Comments due on both regulations by March 15, 2010
- Visit [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) to submit your comments.

# Technical Assistance to States

- State HIE Forum
  - All State HIT coordinators and State Designated Entities will participate
    - Medicaid Directors welcome to be part of the Forum
  - State HIE Leadership Summit and Kick off meeting for State HIE Program in May 2010
  - Forum acts as a Community of Practice Support Network
    - Provides a venue for shared learning
    - Resources for development across domains and stages of development
    - Builds knowledge: emerging best practices, cross-cutting issues
    - Provides a “hub” for the states
    - Fosters active collaboration, coordination among states and projects e.g. NGA/State Alliance, the National Academy of State Health Policy, AHRQ, HRSA, CMS etc

# SLHIE Forum Resources and Activities

Technical Assistance	Information Services	Forum Convening and Leadership Supports
<p><b>Targeted resources</b> Tools, how to guides, checklists etc based on levels of development, approach, priorities</p>	<p><b>Web site</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resource library/clearinghouse</li> </ul>	<p><b>Webinars and Meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross-cutting topics</li> <li>• Domain specific issues</li> <li>• Leadership issues</li> <li>• Virtual and with regional/ state/national HIE events</li> </ul>
<p><b>Group programming</b> Shared needs and priorities across domains, stages of development</p>	<p><b>Communications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rapid alerts for hot topic discussions, new information etc</li> <li>• Monthly information updates via listserv</li> </ul>	<p><b>Leadership supports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State HIE Leadership Summit (early 2010)</li> <li>• Mentoring and ongoing follow up activity</li> </ul>
<p><b>Prioritized one-on-one technical assistance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan development</li> <li>• Operational strategies</li> <li>• Domain specific issues including technical architecture design</li> </ul>	<p><b>Analysis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarterly reports profiling SLHIE progress, case studies</li> <li>• Issue briefs</li> <li>• Presentations</li> </ul>	<p><b>Collaboration and Coordination</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NGA, NASHP and others as participants</li> <li>• Venue to inform, discuss, share learning</li> </ul>

# For more information

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- “Stay Informed” has latest news and will deliver directly to your email inbox
- Navigate to:
  - “HealthIT/recovery” for information related to HITECH
  - “Federal Advisory Committees” for FACA information
  - “About ONC” for ONC contacts



**Thanks and Write to  
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