



HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY Programs Addressing Rural HIT Resource and Reference Guide December 2009

Following is a list of references to federal grants and awards, private grants and awards and federal tools and technical assistance for health information technology. It is a resource for use by rural health care providers developing HIT. For further information contact the agency that administers the program at the links provided.

FEDERAL GRANTS AND AWARDS



American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Health Information Technology Extension Program: Regional Centers

Link to Program Information:

http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=1335&parentname=CommunityPage&parentid=47&mode=2&in_hi_userid=11113&cached=true#3

Link to Full Announcement:

http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt?open=18&objID=909294&parentname=CommunityPage&parentid=12&mode=2&in_hi_userid=11113&cached=true

This program provides grants for the establishment of Health Information Technology Regional Extension Centers that will offer technical assistance, guidance and information on best practices to support and accelerate health care providers' efforts to become meaningful users of Electronic Health Records (EHRs). The consistent, nationwide adoption and use of secure EHRs will ultimately enhance the quality and value of health care.

The extension program will establish an estimated 70 (or more) regional centers, each serving a defined geographic area. The regional centers will support at least 100,000 primary care providers, through participating non-profit organizations, in achieving meaningful use of EHRs and enabling nationwide health information exchange.

Eligibility: Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other

than institutions of higher education.

Application Deadline: Jan 29, 2010

Expected Number of Awards: 70

Estimated Total Program Funding: \$640,000,000

Sponsor: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



***ARRA – Health Information Technology
Implementation for Health Center Controlled
Networks***

Link to Program Information:

<https://grants.hrsa.gov/webExternal/FundingOppDetails.asp?FundingCycleId=CA590BA7-D5C0-4CEB-9A91-391705AF93D3&ViewMode=EU&GoBack=&PrintMode=&OnlineAvailabilityFlag=&pageNumber=&version=&NC=&Popup>

Link to Full Announcement:

<https://grants.hrsa.gov/webExternal/DisplayAttachment.asp?ID=A0277615-2F69-42C4-A0A5-C2DC7056AEAA>

The purpose of this one-time funding grant is to enhance the current Health Center Controlled Network (HCCN) grantees' organizational and information technology capacity to provide additional HIT services in support of the AARA-funded acquisitions of EHR and HIT systems by community health center and HCCNs.

Eligibility: Applicants are limited to section 330 funded health center grantees (i.e., Community Health Centers, Section 330(e); Migrant Health Centers, Section 330(g); Health Care for the Homeless, Section 330(h); and Public Housing Primary Care, Section 330(i)), and health center controlled networks (ie.Section 330 (e)(1)(C)) of the Public Health Service Act.

Application Deadline: Feb 5, 2010

Expected Number of Awards: 36

Estimated Total Program Funding: \$88,000,000

Sponsor: Health Resources and Services Administration



***Exploratory and Developmental Grant to Improve
Health Care Quality through Health Information
Technology (IT) (R21)***

Link to Program Information:

<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppld=42966>

Link to Full Announcement:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-08-269.html>

This funding is to support short-term preparatory, pilot or feasibility studies that will inform larger scale real world health IT implementation and use or the conduct of more comprehensive health IT implementation research.

This FOA is focused on three research areas of interest:

1. Health IT to improve the quality and safety of medication management via the integration and utilization of medication management systems and technologies;
2. Health IT to support patient-centered care, the coordination of care across transitions in care settings, and the use of electronic exchange of health information to improve quality of care; and,
3. Health IT to improve health care decision making through the use of integrated data and knowledge management.

Eligibility: Your domestic institution/organization must be a: Public or non-profit private institution, such as a university, college, or a faith-based or community-based organization; units of local or State government; eligible agencies of the Federal government; Indian/Native American Tribal Government (Federally Recognized); Indian/Native American Tribal Government (Other than Federally Recognized); Indian/Native American Tribally Designated Organizations.

Application Deadline: Nov 16, 2011

Expected Number of Awards: N/A

Estimated Total Program Funding: N/A

Sponsor: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality



Recovery Act - Beacon Community Cooperative Agreement Program

Link to Program Information:

http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=1422&parentname=CommunityPage&parentid=102&mode=2&in_hi_use_rid=11113&cached=true

Link to Full Announcement:

http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_11673_9

This program will provide funding to communities to build and strengthen their health information technology (health IT) infrastructure and exchange capabilities to demonstrate the vision of the future where hospitals, clinicians and patients are meaningful users of health IT, and together the community achieves measurable improvements in health care quality, safety, efficiency, and population health.

Eligibility: State governments; County governments; City or township governments; Special district governments; Public and State controlled institutions of higher education; Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized); Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments); Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education; Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education; Private institutions of higher education

Letter of Intent (Required) Deadline: Jan 8, 2010

Application Deadline: Feb 1, 2010

Expected Number of Awards: 15

Estimated Total Program Funding: \$220,000,000

Sponsor: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



***Community College Consortia to Educate Health
Information Technology Professionals in Health Care
Program***

Link to Program Information:

http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=1414&parentname=CommunityPage&parentid=4&mode=2&in_hi_userid=10741&cached=true

Link to Full Announcement:

http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_11673_909400_0_0_18/CC_FOA_120409_final.doc

The Community College Consortia to Educate Health Information Technology Professionals in Health Care program seeks to rapidly create HIT academic programs at Community Colleges (as defined by the 1965 Higher Education Act) or expand existing ones.

Eligibility: Community Colleges or “institutions of higher education” as defined by section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965. Any university that applies must also be engaged in providing training in Health Information Technology. The lead awardee will also need to provide a list of the Community Colleges in the consortia that will receive funding through the project as sub-awardees.

Letter of Intent (Required) Deadline: Jan 6, 2010

Application Deadline: Jan 22, 2010

Expected Number of Awards: 5

Estimated Total Program Funding: \$70,000,000

Sponsor: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



Rural Broadband Access Loans and Loan Guarantees Program

Link to Program Information:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/broadband.htm>

Link to Full Announcement:

http://www.usda.gov/rus/telecom/broadband/farmbill/rus-bulletin-1738-web2-6-03%20_2_.pdf

The program is designed to provide loans for funding, on a technology neutral basis, the costs of construction, improvement and acquisition of facilities and equipment to provide broadband services to eligible rural communities. The Programs' goal is to ensure that rural consumers enjoy the same quality and range of telecommunications services that are available in urban and suburban communities.

Eligibility: Legally organized entities providing, or proposing to provide, broadband services in eligible rural communities. Please see the program web site for information on eligibility of rural communities. Types of eligible entities include: cooperatives, municipalities, nonprofit, limited dividend or mutual associations, limited liability companies, Indian tribes and tribal organizations as defined in 25 U.S.C. 450(b) and (c) and commercial organizations. Individuals or partnerships of individuals are not eligible entities.

Application Deadline: Applications accepted on an ongoing basis

Expected Number of Awards: N/A

Estimated Total Program Funding: N/A

Sponsor: USDA Rural Development



*Small Research Grant to Improve Health Care
Quality through Health Information Technology*

Link to Program Information:

<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppId=42968&mode=VIEW>

Link to Full Announcement:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-08-268.html>

The purpose of the program is to support a wide variety of research designs in order to improve the quality, safety, effectiveness, and efficiency of health care through the implementation and use of health IT. These designs include: small pilot and feasibility or self-contained health IT research projects; secondary data analysis of health IT research; and economic (prospective or retrospective) analyses of health IT implementation and use. Through economic analyses estimates of health IT implementation and use costs and benefits will be generated.

Eligibility: State governments; County governments; Public and State controlled institutions of higher education; Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized); Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)

Application Deadline: Applications accepted on an ongoing basis

Expected Number of Awards: N/A

Estimated Total Program Funding: N/A

Sponsor: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality



USAC Rural Health Care Service Discounts

Link to Program Information:

<http://www.universalservice.org/rhc/>

Health care providers are permitted to apply to receive reduced rates for a variety of telecommunications services under the Rural Health Care Program. Health care providers may seek support for multiple telecommunications services of any bandwidth and for monthly Internet service charges.

Eligibility: Rural and public or non-profit health care providers of the following types: Post-secondary educational institutions offering health care instruction, teaching hospitals, and medical schools; Community

health centers or health centers providing health care to migrants; Local health departments or agencies; Community mental health centers; Not-for-profit hospitals; Rural health clinics; Consortia of health care providers consisting of rural for-profit hospitals; Dedicated emergency departments of rural for-profit hospitals; Part-time eligible entities located in facilities that are ineligible

Application Deadline: Applications accepted on an ongoing basis

Expected Number of Awards: N/A

Estimated Total Program Funding: N/A

Sponsor: Universal Service Administrative Company



USDA Community Facilities Loan and Grant Program

Link to Program Information:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rhs/cf/cp.htm>

These programs are designed to develop essential community facilities for public use in rural areas. These facilities include schools, libraries, childcare, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted living facilities, fire and rescue stations, police stations, community centers, public buildings and transportation.

Eligibility: Essential community facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population. Loans and guarantees are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, and special-purpose districts, as well as to non-profit corporations and tribal governments.

Application Deadline: Applications accepted on an ongoing basis

Expected Number of Awards: N/A

Estimated Total Program Funding: N/A

Sponsor: USDA Rural Development

PRIVATE GRANTS AND AWARDS



Stimulus Simplicity Program

Link to Program Information:

http://www.gehealthcare.com/usen/hit/hitech_act.html

This program is designed to help hospitals and physician offices accelerate Electronic Medical Records (EMR) adoption by taking advantage of zero percent financing with deferred payments from GE Capital along with a certification warranty for the EMR solutions from

GE Healthcare. It addresses the current obstacles to EMR adoption of stimulus complexity, uncertainty around future standards and affordability.

Eligibility: Hospitals and physician offices

Application Deadline: Applications accepted on an ongoing basis

Expected Number of Awards: N/A

Estimated Total Program Funding: N/A

Sponsor: GE Healthcare

FEDERAL TOOLS OR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



The Health Resources and Services Administration's Office of Health Information Technology Has Developed a Health IT Adoption

Toolbox

This resource is meant to serve health centers as well as other safety net and ambulatory care providers seeking to implement health IT to improve the overall effectiveness of their institutions. They have organized this resource in a question-and-answer format and have attempted to compile a range of resources relevant to all stages of considering, planning, executing, and evaluating the implementation of health IT. The Toolbox also can be found on the Center for Rural Health's State Office of Rural Health "HIT/HIE Resources 2009" webpage: [HRSA HIT Adoption Toolbox for the Public](#).



AHRQ Releases New Webpage on Consumer Health IT Applications

A new Web page on consumer health information technology (health IT) applications is now available on AHRQ's National Resource Center (NRC) on Health Information Technology. As patients become more responsible for managing an increasing volume of health information, including their medical history, lab results, and medications, new consumer health IT applications are being developed that allow patients to manage, share, and control their health information electronically and to assume a more active role in the management of their health. AHRQ's new webpage discusses self-management systems, electronic personal health records and patient portals, peer interaction systems. It also features information on relevant AHRQ-funded projects.



HHS Launches New Blog: Health IT Buzz

Dr. David Blumenthal, HHS' National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, today announced the launch of Health IT Buzz, a new blog that will allow readers to learn more about health information technology (health IT) and provide a space for consumers, providers, policymakers, and technology experts to share their ideas and concerns regarding health IT.