



HITECH PRIORITY GRANTS PROGRAM

State Health Information Exchange Grant Programs

Facts-At-A-Glance

- The HITECH Act amends Title XXX of the Public Health Service Act (PHSA) by adding Section 3013, State Grants to Promote Health Information Technology. Section 3013 provides establishes the State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program.
- The State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program awards cooperative agreements to States and qualified State Designated Entities (SDEs) to develop and advance mechanisms for information sharing across the health care system. A Cooperative Agreement is a partnership between the grant recipient and the Federal government. States and SDEs will be required to match grant awards beginning in 2011.
- Under these State Cooperative Agreements, \$564 million will be awarded to support efforts to achieve widespread and sustainable health information exchange (HIE) within and among States through the meaningful use of certified Electronic Health Records (EHRs). The goal of meaningful use of EHRs is for health care providers to use EHR technology to improve the quality and efficiency of care. State programs to promote HIE will help realize the full potential of EHRs to improve the coordination, efficiency and quality of care.
- The Cooperative Agreement program will support States and/or SDEs in establishing HIE capacity among health care providers and hospitals in their jurisdiction, ultimately enabling exchange across states.
- Announced on February 12, 2010, the first awards provide \$386 million to 40 States and qualified SDE to rapidly build capacity for exchanging health information across the health care system both within and between states. A list of the awards can be found at <http://healthit.hhs.gov/programs/stateHIE>. Additional awards are anticipated in the next two months.
- Legal, financial and technical support is necessary to enable consistent, secure, statewide HIE across health care provider systems. The State Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program funds efforts at the State level to establish and implement appropriate governance, policies and network services within the broader national framework to rapidly build capacity for connectivity between and among health care providers.

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- Participating States will also be expected to use their authority and resources to:
 - Develop and implement up-to-date privacy and security requirements for HIE
 - Develop directories and technical services to enable interoperability within and across States
 - Coordinate with Medicaid and State public health programs to enable information exchange and support monitoring of provider participation in HIE
 - Remove barriers that may hinder effective HIE, particularly those related to interoperability across laboratories, hospitals, clinician offices, health plans and other health information exchange partners
 - Ensure an effective model for HIE governance and accountability is in place
 - Convene health care stakeholders to build trust in and support for a statewide approach to HIE
- The respective State governments, federal government and private sector will all play important roles in advancing HIE among health care providers through the Cooperative Agreement program.
 - States will develop and implement Strategic and Operational Plans to ensure that there is measurable progress within States toward universal adoption of HIE before Medicare payment penalties begin in 2015.
 - The federal government will continue to advance efforts to assure interoperability and health information exchange among States and on a national level through a variety of regulatory and programmatic activities.
 - The private sector will play an important role in providing innovative technological solutions to initiate, establish and maintain appropriate and secure HIE among health care providers at the State and national levels.
- The HITECH Act clearly prioritizes access to health information technology for historically underserved and other special-needs populations, and use of that technology to achieve reduction in health disparities. State Strategic and Operational plans must also address the needs of special populations and demographics within their State – including newborns, children, youth, those in foster care, the elderly, persons with disabilities, those with mental and substance abuse disorders, those with limited English proficiency, and the medically underserved, including Native Americans.
- The performance of each grant recipient will be evaluated to determine if there is improved capability for providers to actively exchange health care data focusing specifically on electronic order and receipt of labs and test results as well as e-prescribing.

Additional information is available at:
<http://healthit.hhs.gov/programs/stateHIE>

