



**Health IT Extension Program:
Regional Centers Cooperative Agreement
ARRA (HITECH Act Section 3012)**

Regional Extension Center Guidance

- Approximately 70 cooperative agreements; 4 year program
- Funding: \$598 million total; Average award per center is \$8.6 million (Min \$1M / Max \$30M)
- Purpose: Provide direct onsite technical assistance to providers
 - Aligned with Iowa Health Information Technology Plan Objective 2.2:
Provide technical support to providers adopting EHRs and participating in HIE
- Goal: At least 100,000 primary care providers served by the centers nationwide
 - Each regional center is expected to provide assistance to a minimum of 1,000 primary-care providers by the end of the two-year period
 - Primary care providers include physicians (MDs & DOs) plus midlevel practitioners. Physician specialties considered primary care include: Family Practice, Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and OB/GYN.

Services to be Provided

- **Education and Outreach:** Disseminate knowledge about the effective strategies and practices to select, implement, and meaningfully use certified EHR technology to improve quality and value of healthcare
- **National Learning Consortium:** Participate in the National Learning Consortium facilitated by the HITRC and share tools and materials developed through the cooperative agreement with other Regional Centers, interested stakeholders, and the public.
- **Local Workforce Support:** Partner with local resources, such as community colleges, to promote integration of health IT into the initial and ongoing training of health professionals and supporting staff.
- **Practice and Workflow Redesign:** Support for practice and workflow redesign necessary to achieve meaningful use of EHRs.
- **Functional Interoperability and Health Information Exchange:** Assist priority primary-care providers in connecting to available health information exchange infrastructure(s).
- **Vendor Selection & Group Purchasing:** Help providers select the highest-value option -- the option that offers the greatest opportunity to achieve and maintain meaningful use of EHRs and improved quality of care at the most favorable cost of ownership and operation, including both the initial acquisition of the technology, cost of implementation, and ongoing maintenance and predictable needed upgrades over time.
- **Privacy and Security Best Practices:** Support providers in implementing best practices in the privacy and security of personal health information.
- **Implementation and Project Management:** Support end-to-end project management over the entire EHR implementation process, including individualized and on-site coaching, consultation, troubleshooting.
- **Progress Towards Meaningful Use:** Participate in program training and be able to provide their clients effective assistance in attaining meaningful use.

Eligible Applicants

- Nonprofit organizations (e.g., 501c3, 501c6)
- Three funding cycles:

	Cycle 1	Cycle 2	Cycle 3
Preliminary Application Due	9/8/09	12/22/09	6/1/10
Full Application Due	11/3/09	3/2/10	8/3/10
Funding Decisions	12/11/09	4/27/10	9/28/10

- Award decision will be made at the federal level
- Proposals to cover the entire state must have a letter of support from the state Medicaid director
- Important to ensure alignment with the Iowa e-Health Project