



HHS, Health IT, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act



- Health IT Home
- Health IT Basics
- Health IT Tools
- Federal Health IT Programs
- Federal Health Architecture
- Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN)
- Privacy and Security
- Public-Private Initiatives
- Health IT Adoption
- Standards and Certification
- State Level Initiatives
- Resources and Public Affairs
- HealthIT/Recovery**
- Contact Us

Home > HealthIT/Recovery

HealthIT.hhs.gov Information Related to the Economic Recovery Act of 2009

This describes details of the Economic Recovery Act of 2009 as it relates to Health Information Technology (IT). As this legislation has only recently been enacted and details of its implementation are being still developed, there is minimal content at this point. However, this page will be updated as details and content become available.

Health Information Technology Extension Program Regional Centers Draft Plan

A Federal Register Notice and Request for Comments has been published announcing the draft description of the program for establishing regional extension centers to assist providers seeking to adopt and become meaningful

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act entrusted to HHS \$167 billion over 10 years.

The purposes of this historic law include:

- Helping to jumpstart the nation's economy.
- Creating or saving > 3.5 million jobs in 2 years
- Expanding access to affordable health care while laying a solid foundation for Health Care Reform.
- Taking a big step toward computerizing Americans' health records, reducing medical errors, and saving billions in health care costs;

HHS is committed to making every dollar count and immediately affecting Americans.

- More than \$16 billion released within first 30 days of enactment, through crucial fiscal relief in Medicaid funding, assistance for community health centers and funds for foster care and adoption assistance.
- More than 90% of increased HHS discretionary funding and two-thirds of increased mandatory funding to be distributed within two years.

HHS Recovery Act Funds Program Level

(dollars in millions)

Improving and Preserving Health Care	\$ 90,400
Accelerating Health IT	48,800
Children & Community Services	12,400
Scientific Research & Facilities	10,000
Community Health Care Services	2,800
Comparative Effectiveness	1,100
Prevention & Wellness	1,000
Accountability & IT Security	98
HHS Total	\$166,600

← 29%!

Accelerating Adoption of Health IT

Incentives for Electronic Health Records

- \$44.7 billion through Medicare and Medicaid to encourage doctors and hospitals to adopt certified electronic health record technology.
- ARRA authorizes that incentive payments may be made to eligible professionals and hospitals that are using EHRs “in a meaningful way.”
- Specific understanding of what constitutes meaningful use will be determined through a process that will include broad stakeholder input and discussion. HHS is developing milestones ...

ARRA Health IT Grants

Health Care Information Enterprise Integration Research Centers

- Research and analysis of best practices regarding Health IT
- Generate innovative approaches to health care information enterprise integration
- **Eligible applicants:** Institutions of higher education or consortia thereof which may include nonprofit entities and Federal Government laboratories

Health Information Technology Implementation Assistance

- **HITECH Act:** \$2 billion for newly authorized Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act.
 - Will establish regional centers to assist providers seeking to adopt and become users of health IT
 - Past experiences have shown that without robust technical assistance, many EHRs that are purchased are never installed or are not used by some providers.
 - Draft program description and Request for Comments in the Federal Register (Vol. 74, No. 101, 05/28/09)
- **Health IT Research Center:** Provide technical assistance and develop/identify best practices to support and accelerate efforts to utilize health IT & exchange info.
 - Established by Secretary, per ARRA; HITRC will coordinate and support the HITECH regional centers

State Planning and Implementation Grants to Promote Health IT

- A grant program for States to facilitate and expand the use of electronic health information using nationally recognized standards and implementation specifications
- **Eligible applicants:** State or qualified State-designated entity
- Grantee cost-share:
 - Prior to FY2011 – determined by Secretary
 - FY2011 – Not less than \$1 for each \$10 of Federal funds
 - FY2012 - Not less than \$1 for each \$7 of Federal funds
 - FY2013 and each subsequent fiscal year - Not less than \$1 for each \$3 of Federal funds

Competitive Grants to States and Indian Tribes for the Development of Loan Programs to Health Care Providers

- Objective: Facilitate the widespread adoption of certified EHR technology
- **Eligible applicants:** State or Indian tribe (as defined in the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act)
- Grantee cost-share: Not less than \$1 (directly or through donations from public and private entities) for each \$5 of Federal funds provided by the grant

Demonstration Program to Integrate Information Technology Into Clinical Education

- Develop academic curricula integrating certified EHR technology in the clinical education of health professionals
- **Eligible Applicants:**
 - a) A school of medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, or pharmacy, a graduate program in behavioral or mental health, or any other graduate health professions school
 - b) A graduate school of nursing or physician assistant studies
 - c) A consortium of two or more schools described in (a) or (b)
 - d) An institution with a graduate medical education program in medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, nursing, or physician assistance studies

Information Professionals in Health Care

- Expand medical health informatics education programs, including certification, undergraduate, and masters degree programs for both health care and information technology students to ensure the rapid and effective utilization and development of health information technologies in the United States.
- **Eligible applicants:** Institutions of higher education or consortia thereof

In Closing

- **Tracking:** Public can track progress of HHS activities funded by the Recovery Act, state-by-state breakdowns and other information by going to www.hhs.gov/recovery.
 - To track all Federal Recovery Act activities, see www.recovery.gov.
- **Reporting:** Recipients of Recovery Act discretionary funds are required to report on their progress beginning Oct. 10.



HHS, Health IT, and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Other Health IT initiatives

State-Level Initiatives

- ❖ **Health Information Exchange Consensus Project:** providing a forum to work with states to ensure all health information exchange activities throughout the United States align
- ❖ **State Alliance for eHealth:** executive-level body of state officials to address the unique role state governments can play in facilitating adoption of interoperable electronic HIE
- ❖ **Health Information Security and Privacy Collaboration (HISPC):** Forty-two states and territories are addressing privacy and security challenges related to the electronic exchange of health information

Public-Private Initiatives

- ❖ **Health IT Policy Committee:** makes recommendations on a policy framework for the development and adoption of a nationwide health information infrastructure, including standards for the exchange of patient medical information.
- ❖ **Health IT Standards Committee:** makes recommendations on standards, implementation specifications, and certification criteria for the electronic exchange and use of health information.

Public-Private Initiatives (cont.)

- ❖ **American Health Information Community:**

In 2005, HHS established this advisory committee, which included public and private sectors, to recommend actions to achieve a common interoperability framework for health IT. The Program was completed in December 2008.

- ❖ **NeHC:** In 2008, HHS initiated this new private sector entity to further advance the use of common standards and policies. The AHIC Successor has been incorporated and renamed the National eHealth Collaborative (NeHC).