



Topic: Office of the National Coordinator Health IT Workforce Initiatives Supporting the Meaningful Use of Electronic Medical Records

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Summary

The HITECH Act section of the [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009](#) (ARRA), includes billions of dollars in Medicare and Medicaid incentive payments to providers and hospitals for the "Meaningful Use" of certified health IT products. To support the implementation and meaningful use of certified electronic medical records, HITECH provides approximately \$2 billion dollars in funding designed to work together to provide the necessary assistance and technical support to providers, enable coordination and alignment within and among states, establish connectivity to the public health community in case of emergencies, and assure the workforce is properly trained and equipped to be meaningful users of EHR's.

To meet the challenge of workforce shortages in the health IT field and to support the development of the skilled workforce needed to support broad adoption and use of health IT, the Office of the National Coordinator has set up three programs designed to provide training of 10,000 certified health IT professionals. The two programs are:

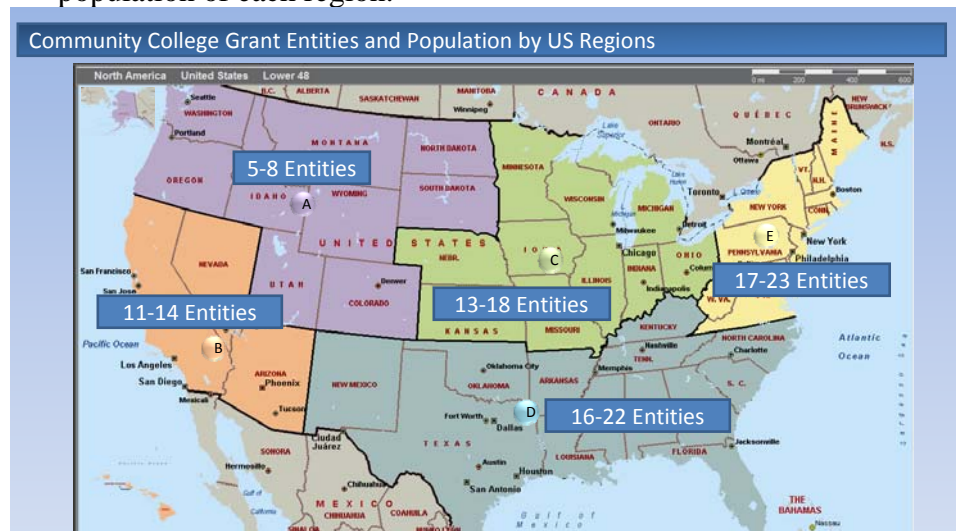
- [Community College Consortia to Educate Health Information Technology Professionals in Health Care Program](#)
- [Program of Assistance for University-Based Training](#)

Award recipients of these programs must support the following overarching goals of these programs:

- Clinicians and hospitals must acquire and implement certified, interoperable EHRs in a way that fully integrates these tools into the care delivery process;
- Technical, legal, and financial supports are needed to enable information to flow securely to wherever it is needed to support health care and population health; and
- A skilled workforce needs to support the adoption of EHRs, exchange of health information among 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.

[Community College Consortia to Educate Health Information Technology Professionals in Health Care Program](#)

- Purpose: to rapidly create HIT academic programs at Community Colleges (as defined by the 1965 Higher Education Act) or expand existing ones. By the end of the two-year project period, all of the Community Colleges participating in the program will have established training programs with the capacity to train at least 10,500 students annually to be part of the HIT workforce
- Identified Health IT Roles:
 - Practice workflow and information management redesign specialists
 - Clinician/practitioner consultants
 - Implementation support specialists
 - Implementation managers
 - Technical/software support staff
 - Trainers
- Available funding: \$70 million dollars through five cooperative agreements.
- Awards:
 - Five awards will be paid to establish training at over 70 community colleges across the United States. One award will be delivered to a consortium in each of the five HHS determined regions of the United States. For this program ONC has created five regions by pairing contiguous regions in the 10 region United States Department of Health and Human Services region map. Pairings were made based on the population of each region.



- Awards are anticipated in March, 2010.
- Requirements:
 - While each member Community College is not required to offer training for all six workforce roles identified by ONC, each consortium as a whole must provide training for all six roles
 - Member Community Colleges must connect graduates with job programs.
 - After 2 years, each member Community College must have a training capacity of 150 students.
 - Grant applicants must offer training programs that can be completed in six months

- Applicants must have a DUNS number
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- Due Dates:
 - Letters of Intent: January 6, 2010. Letters of Intent are not required, but strongly encouraged.
 - Applications: January 22, 2010.

Program of Assistance for University Based Training

- Purpose: Rapidly increase the availability of individuals qualified to serve in specific health information technology professional roles requiring university-level training
- Identified Health IT Roles:
 - Clinician/Public Health Leader
 - Health Information Management and Health Information Exchange Specialist
 - Health Information Privacy and Security Specialist
 - Research and Development Scientist
 - Programmers and Software Engineers
 - Health IT Sub-Specialists
- Available Funding: \$32 million total in grant funding is available. The maximum award to one institution is \$4 million. The maximum award for a consortium is \$6 million.
- The Project period will consist of 3 one year periods
 - Period 1: July 2010-June 2011
 - Period 2: July 2011-June 2012
 - Period 3: July 2012-June 2013
- Four year accredited colleges and universities offering the following types of programs are eligible funding
 - Type 1: A non-thesis masters or certificate program focused on one of the above six listed HIT workforce roles that can be completed in less than one year.
 - Type 2: A thesis required masters program focused on one of the above six listed HIT workforce roles that can be completed in two years.
 - *Special weight is placed on Type 1 applicants. Successful applicants must have a minimum of five Type 1 students trained for every one Type 2 student trained. Applicants can have all Type 1 programs, but must have a 5/1 Type 1 to Type 2 ratio if they offer Type 2 training in order to receive grant funding.*
- The first group of trainees must be enrolled in the program during the fall 2010 semester.
- Applications are due January 25, 2010. Letters of Intent are due on January 6, 2010. Letters of Intent are not required, but strongly encouraged.
- Applicants must have a DUNS number.

