

**Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the National Coordinator for Health
Information Technology (ONC)**

Funding Opportunity Title:

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

Announcement Type: *New Competitive Program*

Funding Opportunity Number: *EP-HIT-09-003*

**Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA)
Number: *93.718***

Key Dates and Submission Information:

Three application cycles

- Applicants will submit a preliminary application
- successful preliminary applicants will be requested to submit a full application
- Successful applications will result in award of four-year cooperative agreements.

Initial Cycle	Approx Funding	Preliminary Application	Preliminary Approval	Full Applications	Awardee Selection
1	\$189,000,000	September 8, 2009	September 29, 2009	November 3, 2009	December 11, 2009
2	\$225,000,000	December 22, 2009	January 19, 2010	March 2, 2010	April 27, 2010
3	\$184,000,000	June 1, 2010	June 22, 2010	August 3, 2010	September 28, 2010

Purpose of the Regional Centers

The **purpose** of the Regional Centers is to **furnish assistance**, defined as

education, outreach, and technical assistance

to help providers in their geographic service areas

select, successfully implement, and meaningfully use certified EHR technology to improve the quality and value of health care.

Regional Centers will also help providers achieve:

exchange of health information in compliance with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, and patient preferences

Priority Providers as Target Audience

Priority given to providers who are

primary-care providers, physicians and/or other health care professionals with prescriptive privileges, such as physician assistants and nurse practitioners

in any of the following settings:

individual and small group practices primarily focused on primary care; public and Critical Access Hospitals; Community Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics; and other settings that predominantly serve uninsured, underinsured, and medically underserved populations.

Measure of a Regional Center's Effectiveness

The ultimate measure of a Regional Center's effectiveness will be

whether it has assisted providers in becoming meaningful users of certified EHR technology

It is expected that each Regional Center will provide federally supported individualized technical assistance to a minimum of

1,000 priority primary-care providers in the first two years of the four-year cooperative agreement project period

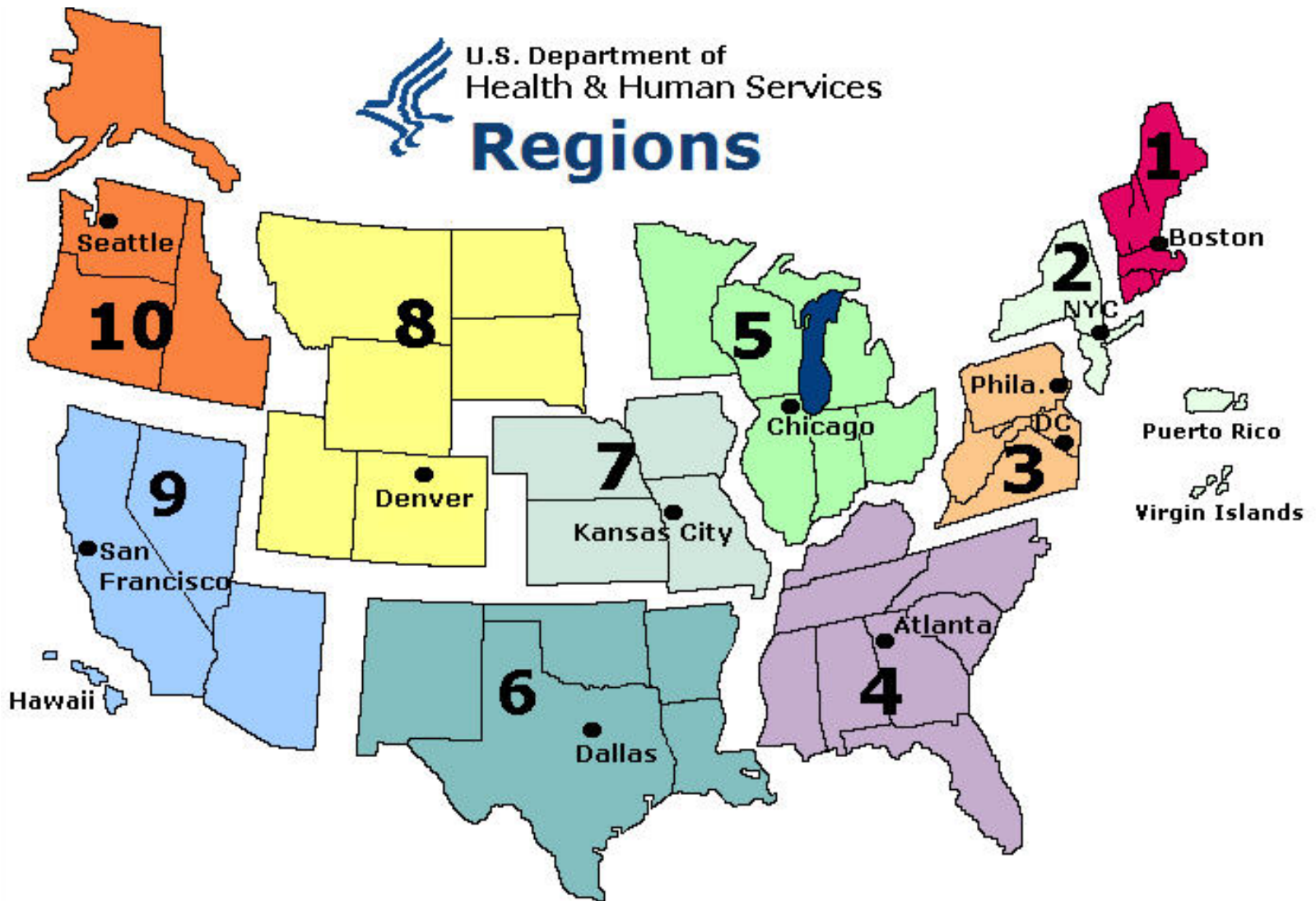
First Cycle of Four Year Awards

It is anticipated that the **first cycle of awards** will result in four-year cooperative agreements with at least one successful applicant furnishing services within each of the ten HHS/CMS Regions

For the **second and third award cycles**, the HITRC and recipients from the first cycle will provide educational resources, technical assistance, and networking opportunities to support successful applications for Regional Centers in new geographic service areas.

Each cooperative agreement will consist of a four-year project period with two separate two-year budget periods.

Ten HHS/CMS Regions



Scope of Services

Each Regional Center will plan and implement

- a. the outreach,
- b. education, and
- c. technical assistance programs

necessary to meet the objective of assisting providers in its geographic service area to

improve the quality and value of care they furnish by attaining or exceeding meaningful use criteria

On-site technical assistance will be a key service offered by the Regional Centers to priority primary-care providers, and will represent a significant portion of the Regional Centers' activities.

Scope of Services

Education and Outreach to Providers

The Regional Centers will provide for dissemination of 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

The Regional Centers will become, upon award, members of a consortium that will be facilitated by the HITRC. All Regional Centers will be required to participate in the consortium and its activities.

Scope of Services

Vendor Selection & Group Purchasing

This includes assistance in assessing the health IT needs of priority primary-care providers, and selecting and negotiating contracts with vendors or resellers (of EHR systems, hardware and network infrastructure, and IT services).

Implementation and Project Management

Regional Centers must provide end-to-end project management support over the entire EHR implementation process

Scope of Services

Practice and Workflow Redesign

Regional Centers must provide support for practice and workflow redesign necessary to achieve meaningful use of EHRs

Functional Interoperability and Health Information Exchange

Regional Centers will assist priority primary-care providers in connecting to available health information exchange infrastructure(s)

Privacy and Security Best Practices

Regional Centers will support providers in implementing best practices with respect to the privacy and security of personal health information

Scope of Services

Progress Towards Meaningful Use

The Regional Centers' personnel shall participate in program training and be able to provide their clients effective assistance in attaining meaningful use.

Local Workforce Support

The Regional Centers will be expected to 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.

Years One-Two Funding (FY 2010-2011)

Funding will be for two categories:

Core Support

Average award value between **\$500,000 and \$750,000** per Center per year for:

- a. outreach and educational activities
- b. program management,
- c. local workforce support,
- d. peer-learning and knowledge transfer activities

Direct Assistance Support

\$500 million allocated among successful applicants in proportion to the numbers of priority primary-care providers receiving direct technical assistance

Years Three-Four Funding (FY 2012-2013)

From the outset of the four-year project period the recipient must implement, a plan to build a direct technical assistance infrastructure that will become **self-sustaining by the end of the cooperative agreement's second year.**

It is expected that the direct technical assistance functions of the Regional Centers will be entirely self-sustaining for providers eligible to receive health IT meaningful use incentive payments for 2011 and following years.

Cost-Sharing

HHS is **waiving the 50 percent limitation** on matching funding for annual capital and operating and maintenance funds needed to establish a Regional Center.

HHS projects that Centers will be receiving fees for their services and support and that this income will be a source of the recipients' funding share in the following table

HEALTH IT REGIONAL CENTERS FUNDING-PARTNERSHIP SUMMARY		
YEAR	FEDERAL AMOUNT OF COSTS	RECIPIENT AMOUNT OF COSTS
1	90 percent	10 percent
2	90 percent	10 percent
3	10 percent	90 percent
4	10 percent	90 percent

Preliminary Application Content Requirements

Applicants are required to submit a preliminary application to apply for this funding opportunity which includes proof of the applicant's nonprofit status and commitment of support from consortium members.

Preliminary Application Content Requirements

- Geographic Diversity, Service Area Participation and Collaboration:
- Proposed Service Offerings including Proposed Center Capacity
- Organizational Mission, Capability, and Experience as Reflected by Current Service Offerings
- Multi-stakeholder, Community, and Provider Commitment

Full Application Content Requirements

1. DUNS Number
2. Project Abstract
3. Project Narrative
 - a. Current State and Gap Analysis
 - b. Provider Commitments
 - c. Goals. and Objectives
 - d. Proposed Strategy
 - e. Populations with Specific Needs
 - f. Project Management

Full Application Content Requirements

3. Project Narrative (continued)

g. Core Performance Measures

h. Evaluation

i. Coordination and Continual Improvement

j. Organizational Capability Statement

4. Sustainability Plan

5. Collaborations and Letters of Commitment from Key Participating Organizations and Agencies

6. Budget Detail

Review Criteria for the Preliminary Application – 100 Points

Criterion 1: Geographic diversity, Service Area Participation and Collaboration. Weight: 30 points

Criterion 2: Proposed Service Offerings. Weight: 20 points

Criterion 3: Organizational Mission, Capability, Experience. Weight: 30 points

Criterion 4: Multi-stakeholder Community and Provider Support. Weight: 20 points

Review Criteria for the Full Application - 100 Points

Criterion 1: Service Area Participation and Collaboration. Weight: 15 points

Criterion 2: Proposed Service Offerings. Weight: 30 points

Criterion 3: Organizational Mission, Capability, and Experience. Weight: 20 points

Criterion 4: Multi-stakeholder Community and Provider Support. Weight: 30 points

Criterion 5: Reasonableness of the Budget. Weight: 5 points

Cooperative Agreement Roles and Responsibilities

ONC will have substantial involvement in program awards as outlined below:

Technical Assistance

Collaboration

Program Evaluation

Project Officers

Conference and Training Opportunities

Release of Funds Approval

Monitoring

Recipients' Responsibilities include:

Collaboration

Reporting

Program Evaluation