

Federal Initiatives In Rural Health

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Overview

- Funds available from a number of Agencies
 - HRSA, AHRQ, CMS, NTIA, FCC, NIST
- ARRA has provided for funds to be distributed through above agencies and ONC
- Nothing is static

Office of Rural Health Policy

- FLEX Critical Access Hospitals Health Information Technology Network
- State Offices of Rural Health
- Rural Hospital Flexibility
- Rural Health Outreach
- Network Development
- Network Development Planning
- Small Rural Hospital Improvement
- Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement

HRSA/Office of Health Information Technology

- Division of HIT State and Community Assistance offers the following grant opportunities in FY 2009
 - EHR Implementation for Health Center Controlled Networks Grant
 - HIT Implementation for Health Center Controlled Networks Grant
- Office for the Advancement of Telehealth grant opportunities in FY 2009
 - Telehealth Network Grant Program
 - Licensure Portability Grant Program
 - Telehealth Resource Center Grant Program

Summary of ARRA HIT Funding

- Total \$19.2 Billion for HIT
 - \$2 Billion for ONC
 - \$17.2 Billion for incentives through Medicare and Medicaid Reimbursement systems
- Codifies ONC, HIT Standards Committee, HIT Policy
- Provides grant and loan programs to assist providers and consumers in adopting HIT
- Privacy and Security provisions in HIPAA for electronic health info

Summary of ARRA HIT Funding (CONT)

- \$4.7 Billion for Broadband Technology (NTIA)
- \$2.5 Billion for USDA Distance Learning, Telemedicine, Broadband Program
- \$500 million to SSA
- \$85 million for HIS
- \$50 million for VA

ONC Spending Plans

	Total Approp.
■ Privacy and Security	\$24.285
■ NIST	\$20.000
■ Regional HIT Exchange	\$300.000
■ Unspecified	\$1,655.715
■ Total, HIT	\$2,000.000

(Dollars in millions)

The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA)

- Title VI- BROADBAND TECHNOLOGY OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM
- TITLE IV—MEDICARE AND MEDICAID HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY; MISCELLANEOUS MEDICARE PROVISIONS
- TITLE XIII—HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Title VI- BROADBAND TECHNOLOGY OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM

- Ensure that all funds are awarded by FY 2010
- Projects are to be completed within 2 years of award
- Eligible entities:
 - States (or political subdivision)
 - Nonprofits
 - Any other entity ruled by the Assistant Secretary of Commerce as acting in the public interest (broadband providers or infrastructure providers included)

2009 RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE BROADBAND INVESTMENT PROGRAM

- ARRA requires that funds be obligated by September 30, 2010
- RUS will offer grants, direct loans and loan/grant combo.
- Funds will be awarded on a competitive basis
- Fund projects that will support rural economic development and job creation beyond the immediate construction and operations of the broadband facilities
- 75% of the investment serves rural areas
- Implement in concert with NTIA and FCC
- <http://www.usda.gov/RUS/TELECOM>

TITLE IV—MEDICARE AND MEDICAID HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROVISIONS

- Medicare Incentives both Provider and Hospital Based
- Medicaid Incentives to Providers, RHCs, FQHCs, and Hospitals
- Based on “Meaningful HIT Adoption”
- The Law established maximum annual incentive amounts and include Medicare penalties for failing to meaningfully adopt EHRs
- Three broad criteria: 1) Meaningful use of EHR, 2) Information Exchange, and 3) reporting on measures using EHR

TITLE XIII—HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- ARRA provides \$2,000,000,000 to the Office of the National Coordinator to carry out Title XIII until the funds are expended
 - Title XIII – Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH) – Inserted
- ARRA is required to direct \$300,000,000 of the \$2,000,000,000 to support regional or sub-national health information exchanges
- Three sections impact how rural will operate: Sections 3011, 3012, 3013, and 3014

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