



Informational Tip Sheet - State of Ohio Invests in Health Information Technology August 21, 2009

The State of Ohio will dedicate approximately \$10.1 million in non-General Revenue Fund (GRF) dollars for the development of Health Information Technology (Health IT) and other healthcare quality improvement initiatives.

The state will use \$8 million as matching funds to apply for newly-announced Health IT dollars. The federal government announced today that \$1.2 billion is available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) in exchange funding and regional extension funding will be available in 2010 to help providers qualify for the incentive payments that will begin in 2011.

Ohio's Health IT agenda has a two-pronged approach. The primary objective is to establish and maintain a statewide Health Information Exchange (HIE). Secondly, the agenda will focus on encouraging and supporting the broad adoption of health IT. A non-profit entity will be designated to pursue these goals in a manner that engenders trust from all participants in the health care system. A detailed statewide plan is being crafted by a large coalition of stakeholders including the state government, the Ohio State Medical Association, the Ohio Hospital Association, the Ohio Osteopathic Association, and BioOhio.

The state plans to establish the following in order to advance its Health IT initiative:

- **Public-Private Partnership:** A public-private partnership in the form of a non-profit corporation would allow the state to leverage skills and resources from a variety of entities that could collectively develop solutions to lower costs and improve health outcomes.
- **Statewide Health Information Exchange:** The exchange could provide access to the necessary data that would give an authorized healthcare provider a holistic view of a given patient's health status and history.
- **Health IT Adoption Programs:** Several initiatives are being explored to encourage and support the adoption of health IT tools. Potential programs that are being considered include:
 - The development of a purchasing collaborative to help drive down the initial costs for small providers buying electronic medical records.
 - The establishment of standards for individuals and corporations providing support services in the IT arena to assure that providers are receiving assistance from qualified service providers.
 - The formation of a center of excellence that will act as trusted source of IT information and advice to the healthcare provider community.

Accredited by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC)

Consumer Hotline: 1-800-686-1526

Fraud Hotline: 1-800-686-1527

OSHIP Hotline: 1-800-686-1578

TDD Line: (614) 644-3745

(Printed in house)

- Provider Loan Program: The State of Ohio will additionally try to leverage ARRA funds to establish a loan program for health care providers who are purchasing electronic medical record tools and services.

A collaborative vendors' forum will be held on Tuesday, August 25, 2009 for all interested HIE vendors. The purpose of the meeting is two-fold: 1) to share information with vendors seeking to provide HIE services to Ohio, and 2) to obtain input from the HIE vendors on the development of such an HIE. This is an informational session only. There will be subsequent meetings as the procurement process develops. HIE vendors must be prepared to discuss high level exchange concepts with the meeting participants for this forum to be successful. To access the registration for the forum, visit

http://www.osma.org/scriptcontent/events/Register.cfm?MeetingCode=H09_VENDOR.

More information about the State's Health IT efforts and the collaborative vendor's forum is posted online at <http://www.healthcarereform.ohio.gov/healthit.aspx> .