

Funding Opportunity Announcement to Advance Interoperable Health Information Technology Services to Support Health Information Exchange

February 24, 2015

The broadcast is now starting. All attendees are in listen only mode.

(Kimberly Tavernia)

Hello everyone, welcome and thank you for attending this informational session regarding the Funding Opportunity Announcement to Advance Interoperable Health Information Technology Services to Support Health Information Exchange. My name is Kimberly Tavernia. I am a Program Coordinator with the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and I will be your moderator for this webinar. Let's go ahead and get started. Here's our agenda for today. We're going to start with introductory remarks going on into the ONC Grant Funding Overview, the Advance Interoperable Health Information Technology Services to Support Health Information Exchange Program Overview, Funding Eligibility and Application Information and Application Responsive and Objective Review. After the presentation you will have an opportunity to submit questions. Starting with introductory remarks. The purpose of today's session is to provide more information on the funding opportunity announcement for Workforce, for Advancing Interoperable Health Information Technology Services to support health information exchange (grant #: IX-IX-15-001). We will describe the purpose and scope of the program, explain the application and review processes, and gather questions from interested organizations and individuals for subsequent response via the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on ONC's website. We will also provide links to additional information and resources. Here are the presenters for today's informational session. Again, I am Kimberly Tavernia, Program Coordinator in ONC's Office of Programs and Engagement. We also have Larry Jessup, Program Manager in the Office of Programs and Engagement. Monica Constant, Senior Grants Management Specialist in the Office of Procurement and Grants and Nicole Todd, Director of Health IT Adoption Division in the Office of Programs and Engagement. Just a few reminders, this webinar is being recorded so if you object to the recording please disconnect now. The slides and recording will be available on HealthIT.gov at the link you see on your slides. You can submit questions during the webinar which I will show you how to do in just a moment. We will not be answering questions during this call. All questions will be compiled and added to the Frequently Asked Questions or FAQ document as needed. Here's the link to where you can access the FAQ document on HealthIT.gov. Here's how you can asked questions via the chat box. If your control panel is not open you can open it by clicking the orange arrow, then click the black icon, the one that looks like a plus sign, to open the questions pane and type your question and hit send. If you are having audio issues you can request help by selecting "GoToWebinar Help" from the top of the control panel. Select "Report Audio Issues" to report an audio issue. If you are having accessibility issues you may also verbally ask a question. To ask a question verbally click the "Raise Your Hand" icon. During the question period at the end of the meeting I will unmute your line so you can identify yourself and ask your question. After asking your question you will be placed back on mute. If you have not entered your pin when logging on to the audio portion of the webinar I will not be able to unmute your line. You can access your pin by opening the audio pane. Okay now I'm going to turn it over to Nicole Todd, Director of Health IT Adoption Division in the Office of Programs and Engagement, to go over the ONC Grant Funding Overview.

(Nicole Todd)

Thanks Kim. Unfortunately we weren't able to see the slides. Could you go ahead and share the slide deck please. And for folks on the phone we will be able to share these slides after the call. So no worries about missing the front matter. We will be able to share the slides after the call. Everyone should be able to see the slides now. Alright, thank you Kim. Before we get into the program and application requirements we want to provide a high level overview of the intent of ONC's three open funding opportunity announcements. Next slide please. A total of 36.1 million is available through these funding opportunities. These opportunities will promote improvement in health IT interoperability, infrastructure, and data quality. Accelerate the adoption of health IT information exchange. Expand training the needs of health care professionals to incorporate meaningful use criteria and care transformation programs. Foster community focus efforts to address population level health challenges. Encourage collaborative efforts to extend HIE services and interoperable health IT tools. Support ongoing efforts realize better health, better care, and lower cost. Here's a snapshot of all three funding opportunity announcements. Health Information Technology Services to Support Health Information Exchange. This funding opportunity is for 28 million. To be awarded to 10-12 grantees. For a period of performance of two years. The goal is to leverage the success from the previous State HIE program and to increase the adoption and use of health IT and services to improve care coordination. Next is the Community Health Peer Learning Program. For 1.7 million to be awarded to one grantee for a period of performance of two years. The goal is to address population health challenges to collaborative community efforts that effectively use health IT in identifying new models of care. Lastly is the Workforce Training to Educate Health Care Professionals in Health IT Funding Opportunity. This opportunity is for 6.4 million to be awarded to 5-7 grantees. For a period of performance of two years. The goal is to update health IT training curriculum and train 6000 health care workers to more effectively deliver and coordinate patient care. Next slide. As you can see from the highlighted box these three funding opportunity announcements reside within ONC's Office of Programs and Engagement. Next slide. Within the Office of Programs and Engagement there are four divisions. Health IT Adoption. Consumer eHelp, National Learning, and Delivery System Reform. This funding opportunity is part of the Health Information Exchange Program with the Health IT Adoption. Next slide. Now I'm going to turn it over to Larry Jessup, Program Manager for the Health Information Exchange Program. He will discuss the program and application requirements.

(Larry Jessup)

Great. Thank you Nicole. Thanks to everyone for joining on call today for the Advance Interoperable Health Information Technology Services to Support Health Information Exchange Program Overview. We're very excited about this opportunity and look forward to working with all of you throughout the application process. And of course working very closely with the awardees to get the goals outlined in this announcement. Next slide please. Just a brief background here to elaborate on an earlier slide of where we come from with all the ONC funded programs and direction and focus we need to have to be successful moving forward. All the ONC funded programs have moved the Nation towards a more standardized, interoperable health IT infrastructure. And while this health IT infrastructure has enhanced the exchange of data within and between states and has improved care coordination, it is the continued ongoing expansion of the health IT infrastructure that will be crucial to enhancing care coordination and achieving better care, smarter spending, and healthier people. Next slide please. The purpose of this funding opportunity announcement is to advance the standardized, secure, and interoperable movement of health information across organizational, sender, and geographic boundaries. This FOA will level lessons learned from the previous State HIE program to enable nationwide health information exchange across the entire care continuum and improve care coordination and transitions of care. Finally, through the expansion and use of

operational health information exchange infrastructure, grantees will seek to address workflow challenges and Technical issues and improve the meaningful use of clinical data from external sources. Next slide. Goals and objectives for grantees. While the FOA will operate under same legislative Intent as the State HIE program, grantees will provide technical assistance, training, education, exchange services, and resources to enable care providers to send, receive, find, and use health information in a manner that is appropriate, secure, timely, and reliable for both senders and receivers. Grantees will work with their purposed target population to expand the adoption of health information exchange technology, tools, services, and policies to facilitate interoperable exchange. Grantees will provide hands-on technical assistance and workflow redesign support to incorporate the use of data from external sources into daily clinical and non-clinical workflows in interactions with patients. Finally, grantees will increase the integration of health information into interoperable health information technology to support care processes and decision making. For example, filtering, subscription alerting that will improve health and health care. Next slide. Scope of services. Funded projects should focus on target populations that include the CMS EHR incentive program eligible providers, critical access in rural hospitals, long term in post-acute care, behavioral health, individuals, and other settings and care providers. Funded projects should provide training, education, and technical assistance to enhance the use of interoperable health information technology to improve care coordination. Funded projects should accelerate the wide spread adoption and use of health information exchange infrastructure including the following transport mechanisms, direct secure messaging, *Query-based* exchange, and/or consumer mediated exchange. Funded projects should use inter and intrastate partnerships to increase the exchange of health information, improve care coordination, and promote a learning health system. Finally, funding projects should participate in communities or practices, workgroups, and peer learning health collaborative to identify best practices and address challenges in executing program requirements. Next slide please. Funding Eligibility and Application Information. Next slide. The type of this award is a cooperative agreement. The funding amount available is 28 million dollars. We anticipate making 10-12 awards. The application due date is April 6, 2015. The anticipated award date as well as the anticipated state date are both June 12, 2015. The period of performance will be two years. Next slide.

Notice of intent. Applicants are encouraged to submit a non-binding notice of intent to apply for this funding opportunity via email by March 2, 2015 by 11:59 p.m. EST. The email should include the following information. The name of the applicant organization, the city and state, the funding opportunity announcement number, (IX-IX-15-001), and the title, Advance Interoperable Health Information Technology Services to Support Health Information Exchange. Please send your notice of intent to HealthInformationExchangeFOA@hhs.gov, Next slide please. Eligibility Part I. Eligible applicants will be states, including territories, or other non-profit State Designated Entities who may apply as designated by the State. Either a State or an SDE may apply for cooperative agreements under this program. Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to enter a multi-state or regional partnerships. However one state or SDE must as the primary grantee or the primary physical agent. States may also designate new entities other than previous SDEs identified during the previous State HIE program. As this announcement will not be limited to previous SDEs nor are former SDEs prohibited from applying. Eligibility Part II. Any entity applying for this cooperative agreement must satisfy the following criteria. Be either a component of State government or a not for profit entity. Be designated by the State through a letter from the Governor. For multi-state applications a letter for the Governor or equivalent, designating the partner state or SDE, must be received on behalf of each participating state. An entity applying of this cooperative agreement must demonstrate that their program includes a multi-disciplinary board or commission in an advisory or governing capacity with broad stakeholder representation that one representing public/private partnership and two represents both State and local needs. Any

entity applying for this cooperative agreement must also demonstrate that one principal goal is to use information technology to improve health care quality and efficiency through the authorized and secure electronic exchange and use of health information. Finally, applicants must certify that they have adopted non-discrimination and conflict of interest policies. The demonstrated commitment to transparent, fair, and non-discriminatory participation by state holders. Cost sharing. The high tech act requires a match of federal monies awarded to states for the duration of the project period of performance. Applicants match requirements for this program will be one dollar for every three Federal dollars for a 1:3 ratio. This means that the awardee will be responsible for contributing 1 dollar for every three federal dollars received. During preparation of the application budget applicants such consider these cost sharing requirements and account for match based on their best estimate of expenditures for each period at the present time. Applicant requirements. Applicants must access the electronic application for this program via www.grants.gov. You may search the downloadable application page by the funding opportunity number, (IX-IX-15-001) or by the catalogue of Federally Domestic Assistance number, 93.719. Applicants must submit all material electronically through grants.gov. This process is outlined in more details in the FOA. For assistance in submitting applications in grants.gov or for any other questions please contact the grants.gov helpdesk at support@grants.gov or call 1-800-518-4726. Applicants must also have or obtain a Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) Universal Numbering System or (DUNS) number. Applicants must register in the system for Award Management (SAM) at www.sam.gov – please allow a minimum of 5 days to complete the registration – if you are already registered in SAM and have not renewed your registration in the last 12 months, you must renew your registration at this time. Finally applicants must ensure that their application meets application requirements and page limits. Application components. The first application component is the project abstract which should be less than 500 words. The second component is the project narrative. In its totality this component will be 20 pages and will encompass the problem statement which will be less than one page. Targeted population areas which will be 2-3 pages. The purposed approach which will be 5-6 pages. Collaborator involvement, which will be 1-2 pages. Project management, 1-2 pages. Work plan, 1-2 pages. And process for dissemination of learning resources, which is also 1-2 pages. The final component of the project narrative will be the budget justification section and that will be less than one page. There's to meet the criteria described and the purpose of scope of services section. The project narrative project statement must provide the reader with an understanding of who the applicant intends to work with and how the applicant will support CMS EHR incentive program eligible and non-eligible care providers and individuals with the technical assistance necessary to align with the three key milestone areas identified in the FOA. Targeted population areas. Applicants should purpose to support at least two non-eligible care givers for the target population and at least one eligible care giver. The project narrative targeted population areas section will describe which applicants will discuss current subject matter expertise, current experience with technical assistance support, and current provisions for the specific target populations. Finally, the project narrative targeted population area section will include detailed information on, based on adoption numbers, youth exchange transactions. Project Narrative, Proposed Approach Part I. Applicants will describe the approach to facilitate widespread adoption use and/or enabling of interoperable health IT tools and services to increase health information exchange in support of Federal, State, and/or community reform efforts. Applicants who address the challenges described in the problem statement. The project narrative purpose approach will provide a detailed development plan that describes future technical assistance support, marketing, outreach, enrollments, evaluations, and workflow efforts and will discuss how your development plan aligns with ONC's ten year vision paper. Finally, the project narrative purpose approach will describe the current exchange mechanisms exchange infrastructure and standards that exist in your service area. Project Narrative, Proposed Approach Part II. Applicants will describe their purposed approach to address workflow challenges and apply notification or subscription services with sophisticated clinical decision support or

utilize data integration tools at root, filter, and highlight information in increasingly meaningful ways. Applicants will also demonstrate how they will ensure that provider organizations are integrating applicable, relevant information they have received from external sources into their electronic health records as appropriate or as applicable. Finally, applicants will describe the purposed approach of how you plan to report on the following milestone measures and document your capabilities to conduct this reporting. For the milestones listed below, these are only suggested milestone examples. Milestone one, adoption. For example, identifying your current adoption and exchange participation baseline in the marketing, outreach, education, and technical assistance you'll provide so that your net number of new participants will enroll or subscribe to health information technology, tools, and services. Once enrolled in your services, the new change participant has logged in at least once. Milestone two, exchange of health information. For example, working with meaningful use eligible to increase the rates of access and exchange transactions in order to meet the Stage II of meaningful use transition of pair measured to criteria or working with your target population to ensure that for 50% of all care transitions this charges or referrals that technical assistance support is provided to promote the sharing of the summary of care record with the patients or its sent to an endpoint that the patient designates. Milestone three, interoperability. For example, grantees may increase the percentage rates of integrating health information from external sources into the EHR's or patient's health record of the target population. For example, grantees may set percentage thresholds for the proportion of transition of care summary of care records received that are integrated within the EHR of target population participant. In this example, the denominator is equal the number of patient visits during a specified time frame and the numerator will equal the number of summary of care records that are integrated into the EHR. The milestone payment would be set at the agreed upon percentage. Project Narrative, Collaborator Involvement Section. Applicants will describe the role and makeup of any strategic collaborators. This includes, interstate and intrastate partnerships, regional partnerships, health IT community partners, State health IT coordinators, State innovation model grantees, current and former high tech grantees, medical professional societies, medical professional societies, public health and social services, EMS, Federal partners and state level health and human services systems. Project Narrative, Project Management. Applicants must delineate the roles and responsibilities of project staff, consultants, and collaborating organizations. This section should specify who has day-to-day responsibility for key tasks, including leadership, task monitoring, and outreach efforts around recruitment, education, enrollment, technical assistance provision, adoption, and workflow redesign. Finally, the project narrative and project management section will demonstrate the current and potential types of reporting or tracking mechanisms necessary to report clinical and/or process improvements. Additional requirements based on specific types of stakeholders involved in the project are included in more detail in the FOA. Project Narrative, Work Plan. The Project Work Plan should, reflect the project narrative and budget. Cover both years of the project period. Identify important milestones and each major task or action step needed to reach those milestones. And finally, the project work plan should identify timeframes, start-and end-dates, resources, and key milestones. Project Narrative, Process for Dissemination of Learning Resources. In this section applicants will present their approach to rapidly disseminate scalable best practices. Applicants will describe their process for documenting the types of learning activities planned, such as learning collaborative, webinars, partnership development, mentoring, and communities of practices. Finally, applicants should partner with ONC and participate in ONC-led workgroups, communities of practice, and other peer learning collaborative, and partner with ONC to disseminate best practices and lessons learned. Project Narrative – Budget Forms. Applicants must complete the following budget forms to document costs of proposed project activities. Application for Federal Assistance SF-424, Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs SF-424A, Assurances for Non-Construction Programs SF-424B, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities SF-LLL. More detailed budget instructions are provided in FOA. Project Narrative, Budget Justification. For this section applicants will provide a detailed budget that includes

all project costs and should explain how the proposed budget supports the program, will meet the program's needs, and is cost-efficient. The Project Narrative, Budget Justification section will describe how proposed costs support program activities. And finally we will discuss how proposed expenditures align with the work plan. For the Application Responsiveness and Objective Review section I will turn it over to Monifa Constant.

(Monifa Constant)

All application materials must be submitted electronically through [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) actually issues an email receipt upon successful submission. ONC also issues receipt upon successfully obtaining files from [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). Applications are reviewed for responsiveness and categorized as pass/fail. All applications that pass the review for responsiveness are forwarded for objective review. Once objective review is complete, ONC makes the award. Next slide please. The Application Responsiveness Criteria. Applicants not meeting the following completeness criteria will be administratively eliminated and not sent forward for objective review. The applicant meets the eligibility criteria. The application is received by the deadline of April 6, 11:59 PM Eastern Time, through <http://www.grants.gov>. The application meets the formatting and length requirements. The application defines a core set of community-level population health management challenges and topics that the applicant understands. Appendices and attachments are not used as a mechanism to exceed page limits of the Project Narrative. Objective Review Criteria. The objective review conducted by a panel of at least 3 experts in areas relevant to this Program. Applications can receive a maximum of 100 points using the following scale. So based on the objective review applications can receive under the Understanding of the Project Purpose criteria, up to 10. Under the Approach, Work Plan, and Activities criteria applicants can receive up to 30 points. For the Applicant Capabilities, applicants can receive up to 30 points and for the Process of Dissemination of Learning Resources, applicants can receive up to 15 points. Budget/Narrative and Justification, applications can receive up to 15 points. I'm going to turn this over to Kim to wrap up.

(Kimberly Tavernia)

Thank you for attending the webinar. This webinar will open for 5 minutes so you can submit questions via the "Questions" box. If you are having accessibility issues you can click the "Raise Your Hand" icon to have your line unmuted so you can then identify yourself and verbally ask a question. We will not answer any questions during this webinar but any question not already addressed will be added to the FAQ as needed. There are also two links provided here where you can access more information on the FOA via [HealthIT.gov](https://www.healthit.gov) or [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). And again, if you need assistance submitting an application in [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) you can use the email or phone number provided here to get help. Since we had some technical difficulties I'm just going to go back to the screen showing you how to submit a question. And here's how you can ask your question. If your control panel has left click the orange arrow, open the questions panel by clicking on the black plus sign icon and then type your question and hit send. If you are having accessibility issues you can also click the "Raise Your Hand" icon and I will unmute you line so you can ask your question.

(Kimberly Tavernia)

Christine Sakuda I'm going to unmute your line so you can ask your question. Please state your name and then ask your question.

(Christine Sakuda)

Hi. This is Christine Sakuda. My question is related to sustainability. Can you provide additional guidance on any expectations around sustainability beyond the grant period?

(Kimberly Tavernia)

Elaine Scordakis I'm going to unmute your line so you can state your name and ask your question.

(Elaine Scordakis)

Hello. My question is, based on this cooperative agreement being a deliverable based what is...?

(Nicole Todd)

Thank you for your inquiry. We've taken note of your question and we will provide an answer via the FAQs as well the same thing applies.

(Kimberly Tavernia)

Dean Kaufman I'm going to unmute your line. If you'll please state your name and ask your question.

(Kimberly Tavernia)

Dean Kaufman you can go ahead and ask your question.

(Kimberly Tavernia)

Dean I'm not hearing you. If you need to speak again please raise your hand.

(Kimberly Tavernia)

Christine Sakuda I'm going to unmute your line so you can ask your question. Please state your name and then ask your question.

(Christine Sakuda)

Hi. My name is Christine Sakuda and my question is, what level of detail do you need for the State match requirement?

(Nicole Todd)

Thank you. We've taken note of your question.

(Kimberly Tavernia)

John Morgan, I'm going to unmute your line. Please state your name and then ask your question.

(John Morgan)

Yes, my question is, where do we go to see the Q&As once you have all the answers in place.

(Nicole Todd)

The Q&As are available on [HealthIT.gov](https://www.healthit.gov)

(Kimberly Tavernia)

Antonio Sisco I'm going to unmute your line please state your name and ask your question.

(Antonio Sisco)

My name is Antonio Sisco. I'm Antonio Sisco of Puerto Rico. In terms of the matching money, it has to be hard cash or can it be *[inaudible]*.

(Nicole Todd)

Thank you. We've taken note of your question.

(Kimberly Tavernia)

Just as a reminder, slides will be made available on [HealthIT.gov](https://www.healthit.gov) shortly after this call.

(Kimberly Tavernia)

Rita Feehan, I'm going to unmute your line. If you'll state your name and ask your question.

(Kimberly Tavernia)

Rita Feehan you can go ahead and ask your question

(Kimberly Tavernia)

Rita, I've muted your line, if you need to ask an additional question please raise your hand.

(Kimberly Tavernia)

John Morgan, I'm going to unmute your line. Please state your name and ask your question.

(John Morgan)

I was just lowering my hand. Sorry about that.

(Nicole Todd)

As we're nearing 30 seconds remaining I want to thank you all for your inquiries. We've taken note of your questions and will provide an answer via the FAQ section on [HealthIT.gov](https://www.healthit.gov).

(Kimberly Tavernia)

Katie Altobello, I'm going to unmute your line. Please state your name and ask your question.

(Katie Altobello)

Hi. I was hoping we could go back too...Hi can you hear me?

(Kimberly Tavernia)

Yes.

(Katie Altobello)

Okay. Great. Can we go back to the slide that has the actual link that's not just saying, go to [HealthIT.gov](https://www.healthit.gov)? Can we go back to the link, the slide that has the actual link so I can copy it down?

(Kimberly Tavernia)

We'll give it another minute so if anyone needs to copy down the link on the slide.

As supposed to writing down the information with regards to accessing FAQs on HealthIT.gov, I want to thank everyone for attending this information session regarding the announcement for Advance Interoperable Health Information Technology Services to Support Health Information Exchange. If you have additional questions, please email HealthInformationExchangeFOA@hhs.gov . Again that's HealthInformationExchangeFOA@hhs.gov. Thank you.

Thank you again for attending the webinar. I will now be ending this session.