



## **Expanding Funding for Rural Health IT to Rural Hospitals, FQHCs and RHCs in Michigan December Workshop at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort**

We are thrilled to announce the launch of a rural health IT funding initiative dedicated to rural hospitals, federally qualified health centers and certified rural health clinics in Michigan. The initiative will focus on a broad range of funding needs, including mobile health, Telehealth and electronic health record technology.

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) and US Department of Agriculture (USDA) are collaborating to streamline and improve the effectiveness of Federal program serving rural America by helping rural hospitals, FQHCs, and RHCs leverage the full suite of complementary HHS and USDA programs to adopt and use health IT, optimize health care delivery and support rural economic development.

### **Partners and objective**

With support from ONC and USDA in Washington DC, the Michigan State Office of Rural Development, Michigan Center for Rural Health, M-CEITA, Michigan Primary Care Association, Michigan Health Information Network and the Hospital Council of East Central Michigan are collaborating to launch a rural health IT funding initiative in Michigan.

Our goal is to expand health IT funding to rural hospitals and clinics in Michigan. Specifically, we will be convening a funding workshop to link rural safety-net providers and hospitals with funding programs to help them invest in the technology to optimize their health systems.

ONC and USDA piloted this funding initiative in fiscal year 2013 and successful generated over \$38Million in funding to CAHs and rural hospitals across 4 states. For additional information, here are links to 1) the announcements of the pilot and workshops in [Iowa](#) and [Mississippi](#) as well as 2) a news release with the funding announcement for [\\$32](#) of the \$38Million.

### **How to participate**

To participate in this initiative, we are inviting leadership of rural hospitals, FQHCs and RHCs in Michigan to participate in a funding workshop on **December 5, 2013 at Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort in Mt. Pleasant Michigan. There is no fee/charge to attend. Agenda and registration will soon to be available.**

### **Workshop partners**

- Jim Turner, Michigan State Director, Rural Development, US Department of Agriculture
- Leila Samy, Rural Health IT Coordinator, Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (speaker)
- Kim Sibilsky, Chief Executive Officer, Michigan Primary Care Association
- John Barnas, Executive Director, Michigan Center for Rural Health
- Elizabeth Schnettler, Executive Director, Hospital Council of East Central Michigan
- Timothy A. Pletcher, Executive Director, Michigan Health Information Network Shared Services (speaker)
- Kevin Perdue, Client Services Manager, Michigan Center for Effective IT Adoption
- Ed Gamache, President & CEO, Harbor Beach Community Hospital