

**Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology
Office of Programs and Coordination**

**American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Of 2009
State Grants to Promote Health Information Technology Planning and Implementation Projects
Funding Opportunity Number: Ep-Hit-09-001**

Project Application

California Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program

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DUNS Number: 80746923

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Project Abstract

Project Title: California Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement Program

State/Territories Included in the Application: California

Applicant Name: California Health & Human Services Agency (“California”)

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Congressional Districts Within Your Service Area: California Congressional Districts 1-53

Brief Explanation of Where the State is in Achieving Statewide HIE among Healthcare Providers:

California providers rank above the national estimate of “basic” EHR adoption rates with 20% of medical groups estimated to be using EHRs. Similarly, among individual physicians, California physicians reported greater use of EHRs than the national average with 37% of physicians reporting EHR compared to 28% nationally. While fewer than a third of community clinics report they are actively pursuing EHRs, the majority of community clinics have some form of health IT in place, most commonly in the form of diabetes and immunization registries. California’s current HIE efforts fall broadly into two categories: (i) large health systems, affiliated providers and ancillary services implementing integrated EHRs, and (ii) community-driven regional efforts that aim to ensure ubiquitous availability of data within a region or across the State. Multiple uncoordinated HIE efforts have developed over the past 15 years as regional initiatives. Of these regional efforts, only three are exchanging clinical data today. The remaining efforts are primarily focused on organizing, fundraising, and piloting solutions.

Abstract Narrative: California is applying to enter into a Cooperative Agreement with the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (“ONC”) for a four year project period. The goal of our project is to build a foundation of health information exchange (“HIE”) throughout the State that provides safe and secure patient and provider access to personal and population health information, dramatically improving the health and well-being, safety, efficiency, and quality of care for all Californians. Our approach is to implement a statewide collaboration process, led by a not-for-profit, public-private statewide governance entity. All stakeholders will have the opportunity to collaboratively develop the common policy and technical standards enabling health care providers to exchange information in an interoperable manner and building off of the many existing and nascent health information exchanges in the State. Our objectives are to meet the milestones and performance measures laid out in ONC’s Funding Opportunity Announcement (“FOA”), which include key accomplishments in each of the five essential domains of HIE: governance, finance, technical infrastructure, business and technical operations, and legal/policy. The State intends to successfully develop the following HIE services: electronic prescribing and refill requests, including prescription fill status / medication fill history, electronic laboratory ordering and results delivery, clinical summary exchange for care coordination and patient engagement, electronic public health reporting (i.e., immunizations, notifiable laboratory results), electronic eligibility and claims submission, and public and population health and quality reporting. The expected outcomes of this project are that a critical mass of health care providers will participate in HIE facilitated by the State and will achieve meaningful use of EHRs as contemplated under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (“ARRA”). The products resulting from this project will be a State-supported evaluation, which can inform national program-level evaluations. Other products will be determined through the Cooperative Agreement contracting and milestone development process in which the State will engage with ONC.