



State HIE Cooperative Agreement Program Webinar

10/07/09

Office of the National Coordinator



CALL AGENDA

I. Submitting the application- Steve Daniels, Alexis Lynady

II. Review of new FAQs developed since last call

- How the match works
- Budget expectations (four one-year budgets with justifications and summary)
- Project summary abstract review
- Reporting requirements
- Project evaluations

III. Forthcoming assistance

- Planning toolkit
- Program guidance on evaluation
- Background on governance

IV. Question and Answer Session



Matching Requirements

Q: Can you explain how the match works and when it takes effect?

A: The state match requirement stipulates that the match must be instituted in a way that spending of federal dollars coincides with spending of the state match. This means that any time federal funds are spent on or after October 1, 2010, the corresponding proportion of state match should also be expended.

Below is an example of the formula for determining the minimum match requirement for Fiscal Year 2011:

$$\frac{\text{Federal Funds}}{10} = \text{State Match Requirement}$$

The match requirement is linked to the beginning of the federal fiscal year, which starts on October 1. Starting October 1, 2010, there is a match requirement of \$1 state match for every \$10 of federal funding expended through September 30, 2011. Starting October 1, 2011, the match requirement is \$1 state to \$7 of federal funding expended through September 30, 2012. Starting October 1, 2012, the match requirement is \$1 state to \$3 of federal funding expended through the end of the project period.



Budget

- Q: If a state is still in the planning stage, does it need so submit a full four-year budget?**
- A: Federal grant rules require that the budget cover the whole four-year project period. Applicants should try their best to estimate their budget for the four-year project period. Applicants will receive guidance about budget amounts prior to submission due dates. Please keep in mind that applicants are encouraged to allocate as much funding in the first two years as is practicable. ONC recognizes that estimates will change as states develop their strategic and operational plans. Future adjustments (post-award) to proposed budgets are anticipated.**
- Q: What is the definition of a funding period? The 12-month period from January 15 to January 14 of each year? Or based on the federal fiscal year, so have to have five actual budgets?**
- A: It is one year from the beginning of the project. So if the project starts January 15 it will start then through January 14 of the following year.**



Budget (continued)

- Q: Do the budget allocations for each year have to be the four-year amount divided by four or is it possible to get a greater portion of the amount allocated during the first and second year?**
- A: We encourage states to accelerate development, which is likely to mean that more of the budget will be spent in the first two years of the cooperative agreement. It is important to accomplish as much as we can individually and collectively to get a lot accomplished in a short period.**
- Q: Based on some of our initial projections of how much money we will need over the next four years to implement HIE, we do not anticipate that ONC funding will be able to cover the full amount. We will need to go out and find other sources, including collaborating with Medicaid and other payers, to help with the full budget. Do you want to see the full picture, even though ONC is a small portion, like the 90/10 funding available from Medicaid?**
- A: Yes, please include as much information as you can about other sources of funds and their intended use. The budget should demonstrate how the state will achieve the milestones articulated in the State HIE plan to achieve statewide HIE. Assuming that there are other sources of funds available, the budget should include how the State HIE grant funds will be used in the context of the larger HIE budget. We anticipate that the budget information will become more detailed over time and with increasing maturity of the State HIE Program.**



Project Abstract

Q: Please tell us what you expect from the abstract.

A: The purpose of the abstract is to provide information to the public. The abstract should clearly and concisely describe the states approach to it's HIE program.

Q: Can you specify the content and format requirements for the Project Abstract? I am having difficulty fitting both my header and abstract content into the provided space.

A: The abstract is intended to be a brief summary of the application. It is not counted toward the page limit. Due to formatting difficulties that applicants are experiencing, please disregard the header and double-spacing guidelines. Applicants should instead single-space their abstract and are no longer required to provide a header.



Reporting Requirements

Q: There is a list of reporting requirements by domain in the notice. Are states expected to respond to the list of questions in the application or can they deal with these issues later in the process?

A: It would be helpful for states to provide an overview of their thinking to date. We are not expecting a lot of detail in the application. We realize your overall approach to evaluation, including strategies and program specific measures, have yet to be developed. We also recognize performance metrics and evaluation are time-sensitive and we do not want to lose a lot of time. You can expect to hear more from us about program guidance, timing, and availability of technical assistance for evaluation over the next few weeks.



FAQs continued

Misleading Marketing Campaigns

Q: Will the Office of the National Coordinator endorse a specific approach to EHRs or HIE?

A: ONC has not and will not appraise or endorse any specific technology, including software and hardware or technology model for health information exchange. However, ONC requires that health information exchange be developed to meet national standards and criteria for interoperability, privacy and security as well as meaningful use criteria.

Program Evaluation

Q: What level of detail is expected in the application for program evaluation?

A: We do not expect a high level of detail on the State's intended approach to evaluation and state-specific program measures in the application. Rather, ONC will provide program guidance and technical assistance to the States in order to ensure a cohesive national approach to program evaluation and performance measurement and management.



Forthcoming Assistance

- I. Planning Toolkit**
- II. Program Guidance on Evaluation**
- III. Background on Governance**