

# HRSA's Office of Health Information Technology

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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Health Resources and Services Administration  
Office of Health Information Technology  
Office for the Advancement of Telehealth



# Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

- ▶ Helps provide a safety net of health care services to 20 million people each year - about 1 in every 15 Americans. Budget of approximately \$7 billion in FY09.
- ▶ Six bureaus: Maternal and Child Health, HIV/AIDS, Primary Health Care, Health Professions, Health Systems, and Clinician Recruitment and Service.
- ▶ 14 offices including Offices of Rural Health Policy, Minority Health and Health Disparities, International Health, Health Information Technology, and the Center for Quality.

# Office of Health Information Technology (OHIT)

## ▶ **Formed in December 2005**

## ▶ **Mission:**

The Office of Health Information Technology (OHIT) promotes the adoption and effective use of health information technology (HIT) in the safety net community.

## **OHIT Includes:**

- Division of Health Information Technology Policy
- Division of Health Information Technology State and Community Assistance
- Office for the Advancement of Telehealth

# HIT Goals for the Safety Net Providers

Bring HIT to America's safety net providers which will:

- Improve quality of care
- Reduce health disparities
- Increase efficiency in care delivery systems
- Increase patient safety
- Decrease medical errors
- Prevent a digital divide
- Allow providers to participate in pay for performance

# What OHIT Does

- ▶ Award planning and implementation grants for telehealth, electronic health records, and other health information technology innovations
- ▶ Provide technical assistance to HRSA grantees and staff (e.g., project officers and Office of Performance Review) related to effective HIT adoption and Federal and state policies and legislation
- ▶ Provide leadership and representation for HRSA grantees with Federal and state policymakers, researchers, and other stakeholders

# DSCA FY 09 Grant Opportunities

- ▶ Division of HIT State and Community Assistance offers the following grant opportunities in FY 2009:
  1. Electronic Health Record Implementation for Health Center Controlled Networks Grant
  2. Health Information Technology Implementation for Health Center Controlled Networks Grant

# Telehealth vs. Telemedicine

**Telehealth**

**Telemedicine**

**Health  
Professions  
Education**

**Administration**

**Evaluation  
Research**

**Homeland Security**

**Regional  
Health Inform.  
Sharing**

**Consumer  
Education**

**Public  
Health**

# HRSA Telehealth Grant Awards

- ▶ First awards made by ORHP in 1989
- ▶ Awarded over \$250 million in grants since 1989
- ▶ HRSA created Office for the Advancement of Telehealth as a focal point for Telehealth activities in 1998
- ▶ Competitive and Congressionally-mandated projects



# OAT FY 09 Grant Opportunities

- ▶ Office for the Advancement of Telehealth (OAT) offers the following grant opportunities in FY 09:
  - Telehealth Network Grant Program
  - Licensure Portability Grant Program
  - Telehealth Resource Center Grant Program

# HRSA Health IT Toolbox

- ▶ A comprehensive online compilation of health IT planning, implementation and evaluation resources to support the implementation of health IT for safety net providers.
- ▶ The HRSA Health IT Toolbox is available to the public at: <http://healthit.ahrq.gov/toolbox>

# HIT Workshops 2009

- In 2009 OHIT is planning to provide 12 regional workshops including:
  - EHR implementation
  - HIE
  - Open source EHR solutions
  - EHR that focuses on child health and pediatric EHR functionality
  - E-prescribing or tele-pharmacy
  - “Meaningful use” of EHRs to improve quality and patient outcomes
  - Sustainability, personal health records, and other advanced topics for operational networks
  - Critical Access Hospitals and other Rural HIT
  - Telehealth for rural and urban communities and health centers

# HRSA ARRA

- ▶ The Recovery Act has directed \$2 billion to HRSA to expand some of our primary health care programs, and another \$300 million to support the National Health Service Corps and \$200 million for our health professions programs.

# HRSA ARRA

- ▶ On March 2, HRSA announced grants worth \$155 million to establish 126 new health centers
- ▶ Those grants mean another 750,000 people in 39 states and two territories will have access to health care

# HRSA ARRA

- ▶ On March 27, HRSA released \$338 million to expand services offered at the nation's community health centers
- ▶ The grants -- titled Increased Demand for Services (IDS) grants -- will be distributed to 1,128 federally qualified health center grantees
- ▶ Health centers will use the funds over the next two years to create or retain approximately 6,400 health center jobs
- ▶ Later this year, HRSA will award about \$1.5 billion in health center grants to fund capital improvements and support health information technology investments

# HRSA ARRA

- ▶ Today, more than 3,800 Corps physicians, dentists, advance practice nurses and mental health professionals treat 4 million patients in underserved communities nationwide, about half of them in health centers
- ▶ With the Recovery Act dollars, we are projecting the ability to place another 4,000 clinicians this year, which will effectively double the number of clinicians we have in the field

# HRSA ARRA

- ▶ ARRA authorizes funds to support Section 330L of the Public Health Act
- ▶ 330L supports grants to states to work together to overcome licensure barriers to telemedicine practice



# Contact Information

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