

Office of the National Coordinator Funding Opportunity

Colleagues,

Issue: The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced earlier this week funding opportunities for Health Information Exchanges to strengthen their ability to support state and local public health agencies. The resources are for developing existing relationships between HIEs and state and local public health agencies to help communities to better prevent, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies, including disasters and pandemics (COVID-19) **Applications for funding are due September 1, 2020.**

Background: With \$2.5 million in funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) signed by President Trump on March 27, 2020, the HHS Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) will award up to five (5) cooperative agreements under the Strengthening the Technical Advancement and Readiness of Public Health Agencies via Health Information Exchange (STAR HIE) Program.

Award recipients will focus on improving HIE services (such as last-mile connectivity and data services) in support of state and local public health agencies. The STAR HIE Program aims to strengthen existing state and local HIE infrastructure so that public health agencies are able to better access, share, and use health information as well as support communities that have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Next Steps: The SHIEC team is reviewing the opportunity and will share additional details as those become available. SHIEC recommends that you develop an internal team to discuss whether this may be something your organization may consider.

For Additional Information: <https://www.healthit.gov/topic/onc-funding-opportunities/strengthening-technical-advancement-and-readiness-public-health>