



Delta Regional Authority and American Health Information Management Association

Rural Health IT Loan Fund Program Fact Sheet

The Delta Regional Authority (DRA) and the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) have teamed up to address the health of the Delta region through a new initiative: *Rural Health IT Loan Fund Program*. DRA covers specific

counties within Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee (please refer to page 2 for a list of eligible counties).

This initiative will be available to assist healthcare providers enhance healthcare delivery in these underserved communities by helping providers purchase an Electronic Health Record (EHR) system. The goal of this project is to:

- Encourage healthcare providers who are eligible for meaningful use incentives (physicians and dentists) in underserved communities to successfully adopt and utilize a Health IT system as defined by federal law.

The DRA will provide an interest free loan to small healthcare provider offices (HPOs) throughout the Delta region to be used to install and adopt an EHR system. AHIMA will assist in the recruitment of the HPOs and with the approval of the HPOs for participation.

- AHIMA will provide instructions on accessing a six-hour, online, free Introductory Module and will forward a list of potential EHR vendors in the region. **This module will not replace vendor training on the specific EHR system selected by the HPO.**
- In addition, AHIMA through participating Universities will offer educational modules that will both lead to an AHIMA certificate and provide information for participants to sit for the HITPRO exam.

Each participating HPO must meet the following eligibility requirements by verifying the information on the loan paper and the registration form for the training module.

- Have an internet connection and use an electronic billing system.
- Be a small practice group of one to five healthcare providers, community health center, or a federally qualified health center.
- Be eligible to receive “meaningful use” incentives, as defined by the HITECH Act.
- Can show that there is a reasonable prospect that the applicant meets the definition of “small and emerging private business enterprises” defined as “any private business that will employ fifty or fewer new employees and has less than \$1 million in projected gross revenues” as required by USDA.
- Complete an initial application.

Providers practicing in a Medically Underserved Area (MUA) or Health Provider Shortage Area (HPSA) designated by HRSA within the DRA region are encouraged to apply.

For more information regarding this project and how medical and dental providers can participate, please contact Bonnie Aguda at bonnie.aguda@ahimafoundation.org.

Bonnie Aguda
Senior Manager, Grants & Sponsored Programs
233 Michigan Avenue, 21st Floor, Chicago Illinois 60601

DRA Eligible States:

(Refer to page 2 for eligible counties)

Alabama

Arkansas

Illinois

Kentucky

Louisiana

Mississippi

Missouri

Tennessee

DRA Eight States' Eligible Counties

ALABAMA:

Barbour, Bullock, Butler, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Dallas, Escambia, Greene, Hale, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Monroe, Perry, Pickens, Russell, Sumter, Washington, and Wilcox

ARKANSAS:

Arkansas, Ashley, Baxter, Bradley, Calhoun, Chicot, Clay, Cleveland, Craighead, Crittenden, Cross, Dallas, Desha, Drew, Fulton, Grant, Greene, Independence, Izaard, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Lee, Lincoln, Lonoke, Marion, Mississippi, Monroe, Ouachita, Phillips, Poinsett, Prairie, Pulaski, Randolph, Searcy, Sharp, St. Francis, Stone, Union, Van Buren, White, and Woodruff

ILLINOIS:

Alexander, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jackson, Johnson, Massac, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Randolph, Saline, Union, White, and Williamson

KENTUCKY:

Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Henderson, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, McLean, Muhlenberg, Todd, Trigg, Union, and Webster

LOUISIANA:

Acadia, Allen, Ascension, Assumption, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Bienville, Caldwell, Cameron, Catahoula, Claiborne, Concordia, DeSoto, East Baton Rouge, East Carroll, East Feliciana, Evangeline, Franklin, Grant, Iberia, Iberville, Jackson, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, La Salle, Lafourche, Lincoln, Livingston, Madison, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Orleans, Ouachita, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, Red River, Richland, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Tangipahoa, Tensas, Union, Vermillion, Washington, Webster, West Baton Rouge, West Carroll, West Feliciana, and Winn

MISSISSIPPI:

Adams, Amite, Attala, Benton, Bolivar, Carroll, Claiborne, Coahoma, Copiah, Covington, Desoto, Franklin, Grenada, Hinds, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Jasper, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Lawrence, Leflore, Lincoln, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Montgomery, Panola, Pike, Quitman, Rankin, Sharkey, Simpson, Smith, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tate, Tippah, Tunica, Union, Walthall, Warren, Washington, Wilkinson, Yalobusha, and Yazoo

MISSOURI:

Bollinger, Butler, Cape Girardeau, Carter, Crawford, Dent, Douglas, Dunklin, Howell, Iron, Madison, Mississippi, New Madrid, Oregon, Ozark, Pemiscot, Perry, Phelps, Reynolds, Ripley, Scott, Shannon, St. Francois, St. Genevieve, Stoddard, Texas, Washington, Wayne, and Wright

TENNESSEE:

Benton, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Lake, Lauderdale, Madison, McNairy, Obion, Shelby, Tipton, and Weakley

**Delta Regional Authority and
American Health Information Management
Association**

***Rural Health IT
Loan Fund Program***

Initial Application



General Information

Provider Practice Name: _____

Primary Contact Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

County: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Office Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Direct Telephone: _____ Practice Website: _____

For the "Meaningful Use" Incentive Program as defined by the HITECH Act

Is your practice eligible for this "Meaningful Use" Incentive Program? Yes No

For the Health IT Workforce Revolving Loan Fund Program

Is your practice designated as a Health Provider Shortage Area (HPSA) by Health and Human Services (HHS)? Yes No

Discipline: _____ ID # _____

Designated Date: _____

Is your practice designated as a Medically Underserved Areas (MSA) by Health and Human Services (HHS)? Yes No

Discipline: _____ ID# _____

Designated Date: _____

Description of the Business

Which of the following does your business fall under:

- A practice group consist of five (5) or fewer health care providers,
- A community health center,
- A federally qualified health center, or
- Other _____

Does your practice group meet USDA's definition of a "small and emerging private business enterprise":

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Fifty (50) or fewer employees | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Has less than \$1 million in projected gross revenues | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

Which disciplines does your practice cover (indicate all that apply):

- Medical
- Dental
- Other _____

How many employees will be participating in the program?

Physicians _____ Dentists _____ Other Professionals _____ Non Professional Staff _____

Connectivity

Does your practice have an internet connection? Yes No

Does your practice currently use an electronic billing system? Yes No

Is your practice able to submit monthly electronic reports for a defined time span? Yes No

Are you currently exploring an Electronic Health Record system with a vendor? Yes No

If yes, please indicate name of vendor: _____

Training of the Electronic Health Record (EHR)

Has your staff had training in the following areas:

- Introduction to EHR
- Implementation of the EHR
- Privacy and Security
- Practice Workflow and Meaningful Use