

U.S. House and Senate Notification
Friday, February 26, 2010

To: Congressional Health Staff

From: Amy Hall
Director, Office of Legislation
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Re: CMS Announces Recovery Act Grant Awards to Twelve States for Electronic Health Record Incentives Payment Program

Today, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced additional federal matching funds for certain state planning activities necessary to implement the electronic health record (EHR) incentive program established by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act). The Recovery Act provides a 90 percent federal match for state planning activities to administer the incentive payments to Medicaid providers, to ensure their proper payments through audits, and to participate in statewide efforts to promote interoperability and meaningful use of EHR technology statewide and, eventually, across the nation.

The widespread adoption of EHRs holds great promise for improving health care quality, efficiency, and patient safety. EHRs will make it easier for the many providers treating a Medicaid patient to coordinate care, as well as make it easier for patients to access the information they need to make decisions about their health care.

These grant awards are part of a rolling announcement CMS began in November 2009. To date, CMS has awarded a total of \$43.56 million in grant awards for states' initial planning activities. The twelve states selected and corresponding award amounts are as follows:

State	Award Amount
Alabama	\$269,000
Arkansas	\$815,000
Arizona	\$2.89 million
Florida	\$1.69 million
Illinois	\$2.18 million
Kansas	\$1.70 million
Maine	\$1.40 million
Michigan	\$1.52 million
Nebraska	\$894,000
Oklahoma	\$587,000
Vermont	\$294,000
Virginia	\$1.66 million

Additional information on implementation of the Medicaid-related provisions of the Recovery Act's EHR incentive payment program may be found at:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Recovery/11_HealthIT.asp#TopOfPage

The state-by-state press releases are available at:

https://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/media/press_releases.asp

If you have any questions about this announcement, please contact the CMS Office of Legislation. Thank