

**Government Information Technology Agency**  
**Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO) Planning Grant**  
**RHITA 2008-01 Grant Application**

**Fact Sheet**  
**April 28, 2008**

**What Is the Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO) Planning Grant?**

The RHIO Planning Grant will be funded through the Rural Health Information Technology Adoption (RHITA) Grant Program established to support the implementation of healthcare information technology and healthcare information exchange among rural healthcare providers. Approximately \$800,000 in direct funding and \$100,000 in consulting services is available to multiple collaborations working to shape their region's future in Health Information Exchange (HIE).

**What Will This Grant Fund?**

Each RHIO Planning Grant award will fund nine months of planning and capacity building activities for collaborative groups that include healthcare providers serving rural Arizona as they work to evaluate and configure a regional approach to improving the quality and efficiency of healthcare through health information exchange. The activities must support the goals of the Arizona Health-e Connection Roadmap developed through Governor Napolitano's Executive Order 2005-25. The planning grant may be used to initiate, progress through and/or complete the early activities essential to forming or participating in a regional health information organization. These activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Achieving recognition by community leaders that HIE has value and should be pursued for the betterment of the community.
- Developing the business case for HIE, working with key stakeholders to understand the value that HIE provides for them.
- Defining the governance for the proposed health information exchange organization by setting expectations, roles, responsibilities, decision-making processes and accountability.
- Gaining an understanding privacy and security issues and determining how the exchange might protect health information from exposure to accidental or inappropriate disclosure, unauthorized access or modification.
- For collaborative groups that can demonstrate substantial completion of the activities listed above, the grant award will support activities such as those that accomplish community outreach, develop a model for long term sustainability, complete an education plan for RHIO participants, and support practice transformation for participant healthcare providers.

In addition to receiving funds awarded through the grant, grantee groups will be awarded a block of consulting and support services to assist them in completing formation activities.

**Who Is Eligible to Apply for These Funds?**

Proposals must be submitted by groups with a minimum of two stakeholders. Each group must have a lead applicant organization that will serve as the primary contact and fiscal agent, and be responsible for the management of the project and the grant reporting. RHIOs benefit from the participation of very diverse stakeholders. However, the lead applicant organization for the group must be one of the following:

- A non-profit entity predominantly serving rural Arizona
- Rural government entities (city, county, tribal)
- Hospitals predominantly serving rural Arizona

**Proposed Timeline**

April 28, 2008	RFG and RHIO Formation Guide available on-line at <a href="http://www.azgita.gov/ehealth/RHITA">www.azgita.gov/ehealth/RHITA</a>
May 8, 2008	Pre-application Conference 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM in the Arizona State Land Department's basement auditorium located at 1616 W Adams Street, Phoenix, Arizona, 85007
June 9, 2008	Proposals due to GITA Office by 4:00 PM

**How do I Get a Copy of the RFG?**

Please visit the following web site on or after April 28, 2008: <http://www.azgita.gov/ehealth/RHITA>

**Any Questions:**

For questions, please contact Eric Thomas, Project Manager for the RHITA Grant Program, at the State of Arizona's Government Information Technology Agency. Contact Eric Thomas via e-mail at [ethomas@azgita.gov](mailto:ethomas@azgita.gov) or by telephone at (602) 364-4858.