



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Human Services

Office of the Director

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May 11, 2009

The Honorable Margaret Carter, Co-Chair
The Honorable Peter Buckley, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048



Re: Federal Appropriations designated to Office for Oregon Health
Policy and Research for Oregon Electronic Health Records
Improvement Project – Non-ARRA Related – Non-Competitive

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

The Office for Oregon Health Policy and Research was recently identified as the recipient of Federal financial support for a "Health Care and Other Facilities" (HCOF) project, the Oregon Electronic Health Records (EHR) Improvement Project. Funding was provided by the Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 111 – 8), the President's Budget. This is a separate appropriation from those available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

Funding in the amount of \$282,150 was approved of the original federal appropriations request for this project of \$5.5 million submitted on behalf of the Governor's Office in February 2008 to Rep. Blumenauer's and Sen. Wyden's Congressional offices. This project is in partnership with the Oregon Community Health Information Network (OCHIN). The portion of the original federal appropriations request that can be funded will support the development of software and other technical assistance necessary to provide improved exchange of health information between those urban and rural health clinics using OCHIN electronic records and the electronic health record system of Oregon Health Sciences University, the major referral hospital for

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safety net patients in the Portland metropolitan area as well as an important referral hospital for rural safety net and primary care clinics throughout Oregon. These funds will be contracted out to OCHIN.

There was no funding for this project prior to approval of this appropriation in the President' budget. Before receiving Federal funds, the Office is required to submit an application for review and approval by HRSA on May 11, 2009. Since Congress has provided such funding in the budget, it is non-competitive. There is no required state match. No additional FTE is required. The award was not based on a particular formula calculation the Office is aware of, but was a portion of the original federal appropriations request. The notice of award and release of the funds will be made prior to October 15, 2009 and is expected to be expended over a one-year period. Further appropriations are not expected for this project. The Department will include these funds in its 2009-2011 expenditure limitation.

For additional information, please call Jeanene Smith at 503-373-1625.

Sincerely,



Jim Scherzinger
Deputy Director of Finance

CC: John Britton, Legislative Fiscal Office
Sheila Baker, Legislative Fiscal Office
Blake Johnson, Department of Administrative Services