

Where can I get help to install an Electronic Health Record (EHR) system for my office?

Are there any loans or grants currently available from the state or federal governments to help provider offices pay for new electronic health record systems?

There has been much discussion both at the federal and state level about the importance of helping individual provider offices implement electronic health record systems. However, there are currently no federal or state loan or grant programs available for individual providers to help purchase EHR systems. The State of Oregon is exploring options for a loan program.

HITOC will provide information on grant/loan programs as they are developed and information becomes available, which will be posted on the [Funding Opportunities](#) page of the HITOC website. There have been some grant dollars available to help support EHR adoption in Federally Qualified Health Clinics (FQHC) and Community Based Clinics through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Several Oregon organizations, including OCHIN and Central City Concern, have received grants to help with health information technology adoption.

Please submit any questions or requests for further information to HITOC.info@state.or.us, and a HITOC staff member will assist you.

Is there help available to providers who need to install or update EHR systems?

Yes. The Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) is providing support to assist providers across the country in adopting and using certified EHR technology in a meaningful way through a nationwide network of Regional Extension Centers. In Oregon, those providers who need help with meeting meaningful use, beginning with the selection of an EHR system or the assessment of whether a current system needs to be upgraded, should contact O-HITEC, Oregon's Regional Extension Center, by visiting www.o-hitec.org.

KLAS (www.klasresearch.com) helps healthcare providers make informed technology decisions by reporting accurate, honest, and impartial vendor performance.

What is the timing on federal loan or grant programs?

Planning for robust health information exchange in every state is available through several federal funding streams specifically designated for this purpose. The grant funding will come through several federal agencies, and will be distributed through a variety of avenues, including:

1. The state, or a state-designated entity, will receive funding to create a strategic plan and operationalize a system of statewide HIE. This money will come into Oregon through the Oregon Health Authority over a 4-year period.
2. The state Medicaid programs will administer incentive payments to hospitals and eligible providers that meet a threshold of 30% Medicaid patients and who can demonstrate that they have achieved the required level of meaningful use of health information technology.
3. CMS will administer incentive payments to hospitals and provider practices that meet a threshold of 20% Medicare patients and achieve "meaningful use" of health information technology.
4. Other loan programs and potential grant opportunities may be developed. There are currently several bills before Congress that would help providers transition to EHR systems.

How do I make sure that I hear about funding opportunities?

Sign up for [HITOC updates](#) to receive regular updates about federal and state funding opportunities. Be sure to select the Health Information Technology Oversight Council.