

Three Oregon Organizations Receive Contracts from SSA to Expand HIE

The Social Security Administration awarded \$17.4 million in contracts on February 1, 2010 to 15 health information networks, providers and health IT firms across the country, including three from Oregon.

Douglas County Individual Practice Association (DCIPA) of Roseburg was awarded \$502,000 and Oregon Community Health Information Network (OCHIN) of Portland was awarded \$284,000, and BACIA (Bay Area Community Informatics Agency) was part of a multi-organizational contract with Medicity. The contract awards were funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

These contracts will build on work begun three years ago when the SSA started testing an application with MedVirginia to electronically access the health records of disability applicants directly from local providers, sort them through a state health information exchange and provide them to SSA adjudicators, which has shortened the processing time so that some disability decisions are now made in days instead of weeks or months.

“The use of health IT will dramatically improve the speed, accuracy, and efficiency of this process, reducing the cost of making a disability decision for both the medical community and the American taxpayer,” Michael Astrue, SSA’s commissioner, said in announcing the awards.

For more information and a list of the other awards see [Government HealthIT](#).