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New Information Technology Grant Funding Opportunity for Existing Rural Health Networks

By: [Joshua A. Freemire](#)

If your organization is a member of a formally organized Rural Health Network (RHN), a new grant program promises up to \$300,000 per year for the next three years to support your adoption and meaningful use of electronic health record (EHR) technology. On April 27, 2011, the Health Resources and Services Administration issued notice that it would be accepting applications from existing RHNs for the 3 year grants to “provide targeted HIT support to existing health care networks in Rural America where the need is most critical.” Up to 40 grants will be awarded.

The application deadline is May 27, 2011, and applications may be submitted electronically through www.grants.gov/. The program is strictly limited to existing, formally organized RHNs that meet one of the following criteria: (1) whose lead member is located in a rural county or census tract, (2) who exist exclusively to provide services to migrant or seasonal farm workers (and are supported as such under Section 330G of the Public Health Service Act), or (3) who are Tribal governments whose activities will be conducted within their Federally-recognized Tribal area. Applicants need not be located within the 50 states or the District of Columbia; the program is also open to RHNs in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Territories of the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Compact Free Association Jurisdictions of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia.

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Other restrictions and application criteria apply. Interested RHNs should review the full funding announcement and associated application material. The link to the funding announcement (as a Microsoft Word document) is located with the section of the announcement entitled "Download Information," near the bottom of the announcement page.