

On May 4, 2010, Vice President Biden and U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced the selection of 15 communities across the country to serve as pilot communities to receive \$220 million in Recovery Act awards for eventual wide-scale use of health information technology through the Beacon Community program.

The Beacon Community Cooperative Agreement Program provides funding to communities to build and strengthen their health information technology (health IT) infrastructure and exchange capabilities. These communities will demonstrate the vision of a future where hospitals, clinicians, and patients are meaningful users of health IT, and together the community achieves measurable improvements in health care quality, safety, efficiency, and population health. The Program provides funding to communities at the cutting edge of electronic health record (EHR) adoption and health information exchange to push them to a new level of sustainable health care quality and efficiency. This program is anticipated to demonstrate how health IT can help providers and consumers develop innovative ways of delivering care leading to sustainable and measurable health and efficiency improvements. The program also will generate lessons learned on how other communities can achieve similar goals enabled by health IT.

ONC made awards in the form of cooperative agreements to the following 15 qualified non-profit organizations or government entities:

Beacon Community Awardees	Funding Amount
Community Services Council of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK	\$12,043,948
Delta Health Alliance, Inc., Stoneville, MS	\$14,666,156
Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems, Brewer, ME	\$12,749,740
Geisinger Clinic, Danville, PA	\$16,069,110
HealthInsight, Salt Lake City, UT	\$15,790,181
Indiana Health Information Exchange, INC., Indianapolis, IN	\$16,008,431
Inland Northwest Health Services, Spokane, WA	\$15,702,479
Louisiana Public Health Institute, New Orleans, LA	\$13,525,434
Mayo Clinic Rochester, d/b/a Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, MN	\$12,284,770
Rhode Island Quality Institute, Providence, RI	\$15,914,787
Rocky Mountain Health Maintenance Organization, Grand Junction, CO	\$11,878,279
Southern Piedmont Community Care Plan, Inc., Concord, NC	\$15,907,622
The Regents of the University of California at San Diego, San Diego, CA	\$15,275,115
University of Hawaii at Hilo, Hilo, HI	\$16,091,390
Western New York Clinical Information Exchange, Inc., Buffalo, NY	\$16,092,485

An additional \$30.3 million is currently available to fund additional Beacon Community cooperative agreement awards. An announcement to apply will be made in the near future. For more information on the Beacon Community Program, e-mail BeaconCommunityGrants@hhs.gov.