Directory

Rural Health Information Technology (HIT) Workforce Program

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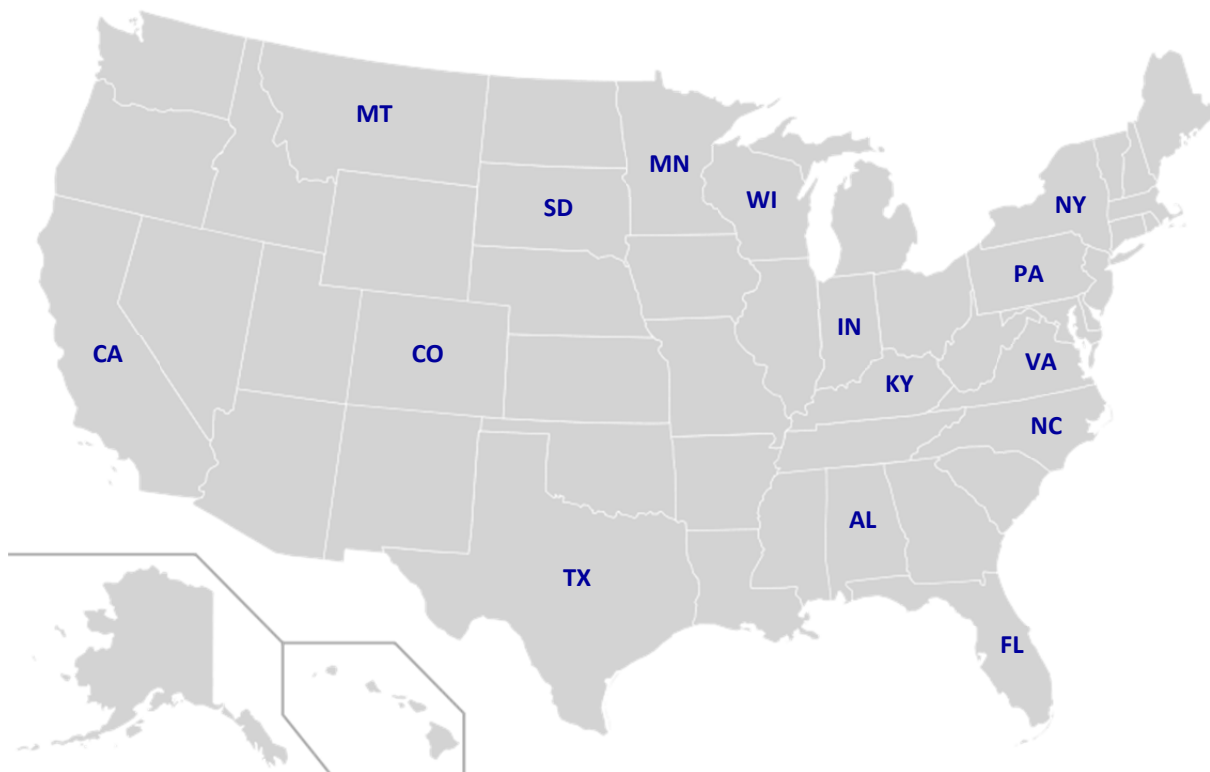
MT
MN
SD
WI
NY
PA
IN
CA
CO
VA
KY
NC
AL
TX
FL

Grantee Directory

The Rural Health Information Technology (HIT) Workforce Program

The purpose of Rural Health Information Technology (HIT) Workforce Program is to support formal rural health networks implementing activities related to the recruitment, education, training, and retention of HIT specialists. Funded rural health networks leverage and enhance existing HIT training materials to develop formal training programs for current health care staff, local displaced workers, rural residents, veterans, and other potential students.

These formal training programs will result in the development of a cadre of HIT workers who can help rural hospitals and clinics implement and maintain systems, such as electronic health records (EHR), telehealth, home monitoring and mobile health technology, and meet national EHR meaningful use standards.

The Rural Health Information Technology Workforce Program goals are the following:

- Build a rural-focused HIT training program with an educational institution that has either an established HIT specialist curriculum or is in the process of developing a curriculum for a HIT specialist certificate(s) which builds on the HIT training materials and curriculum modules already developed by the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC);
- Provide HIT specialist students training opportunities and experiences within culturally competent, community focused rural hospitals/clinics in an effort to build and reinforce ties within rural communities;
- Improve the viability of the network partners by increasing recruitment and retention of HIT specialists within their rural communities and other non-network rural communities;
- Establish a replicable approach to educating and training HIT specialist students in rural areas by providing the curriculum and training materials developed during the grant to be shared publicly so that other rural or rural-serving community, vocational, and technical colleges might offer similar training in the future;
- Build connections to providers within the region to aid with student job placement;
- Increase the number of HIT specialists who will systematically work toward helping all rural network members reach EHR meaningful use standards by implementing, upgrading, testing and maintaining relevant, effective, and efficient HIT systems and programs; and,
- Establish partnerships between the network and community organizations that can serve as an ongoing vehicle for addressing workforce challenges.

This directory provides contact information and a brief overview of the fifteen initiatives funded under the Rural Health Information Technology (HIT) Workforce Program in the 2013-2016 funding cycle.

2013 Rural Health Information Technology (HIT) Workforce Program Grant Ricipients
(Listed by State)

Alabama
Regional Health Care Network

Grant Number	R01RH26278				
Grantee Organization Name	Regional Health Care Network				
Address	P.O. Box 349				
	City:	Childersburg	State:	AL	Zip-code:	35044
Grantee organization website	www.rhcn.org				
Grantee Project Director	Name:	Mike Bice			
	Title:	Network Director			
	Phone:	205-447-1176			
	Fax:	256-378-5912			
	Email:	mike@managementmed.com			
Project Period	2013 – 2016				
Expected funding level for each budget period	Sept 2013 to Aug 2014:	$299,111			
	Sept 2014 to Aug 2015:	$299,653			
	Sept 2015 to Aug 2016:	$299,267			

Network Partners	Organization Name	City/County	Organization Type
	Childersburg Primary Care	Talladega	Clinic
	Childersburg Medical Surgical Center	Talladega	PC
	Talladega County Schools	Talladega	Schools
	Brookwood Medical Center	Jefferson	Hospital
	Cheaha Reg Mental Health	Talladega	Mental Health
	Mgt. and Medical Consulting Services	Talladega	Consulting
	Diabetic Wound Care Ctr.	Talladega	Wound Care
	AL Partnership for Telehealth	Autauga County	Telehealth
	Childersburg Chamber of Commerce	Talladega	COC

The communities/counties that the HIT Workforce Development project serves	Calhoun	Dekalb
	Chambers	Etowah
	Cherokee	Randolph
	Clay	Talladega
	Cleburne	Tallapoosa
	Coosa	
The target population served	Community College enrollees	

Description of the HIT Workforce Development project	The overall purpose of this Rural Health Information Technology (HIT) Workforce Program is to increase the workforce available to rural healthcare providers to select, install, operate, and maintain computerized healthcare systems, such as electronic health records (EHR), in rural Central Alabama. The program will be supported by The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), one of the developers of ONC's HIT curriculum modules and the newly created Alabama Statewide Area Health Education Center. Community college collaborators will include Gadsden State Community College and Central Alabama Community College in Childersburg, Alabama.
	RHCN and its membership have expanded its relationship to providers beyond the Childersburg area and have assisted providers throughout the state in selecting and installing HIT. This project will expand that effort by increasing the workforce to assist with the deployment of HIT and will include both a certificate and a continuing education program. Alabama was ranked 45th in state health rankings in 2012. Fifty-five (82 percent) of Alabama's 67 counties are rural and all 67 are designated as medically underserved. A total of 62 counties have primary care health professional shortage area (HPSA) designations, including all eleven counties in our target area. Alabama is lower than the national average in use of Health IT and rural areas are lower than other parts of the state. The University of Alabama at Birmingham will support this project by helping the community colleges refine the ONC curriculum materials and prepare the instructors for educating the recruited individuals and provide program evaluation. The Alabama Statewide AHEC will support this effort by recruiting high school seniors and returning veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan to participate in the instructional programs. Our goal is to (1) Create a health IT curriculum tailored for rural needs (2) recruit underrepresented minority, rural, and other disadvantaged Alabama youth and veterans (3) train them in the use of HIT, and (4) develop a sustainable Alabama Rural Health Information Technology Workforce Development system.

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	City:	Rockville	State:	Maryland	Zip-code:	20857
Georgia Health Policy Center Technical Assistance Consultant information	Name:	Catherine R. Liemohn				
	Title:	Technical Assistance Consultant				
	Tel #:	770-641-9940				
	Email:	Liemohn@bellsouth.net				
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	City:	Atlanta	State:	Georgia	Zip-code:	30303

California
Livingston Community Health Services, Inc.

Grant Number	R01HR26273
Grantee Organization Name	Livingston Community Health Services, Inc.
Address	1140 Main St.

	City:	Livingston	State:	CA	Zip-code: 95334

Grantee organization website	Cvchitworkforce.org

Grantee Project Director		
	Name:	Leslie McGowan
	Title:	CEO
	Phone:	209-394-7913
	Fax:	
	Email:	lmcgowan@livingstonmedical.org

Project Period	2013 – 2016

Expected funding level for each budget period		
	Sept 2013 to Aug 2014:	$300,000
	Sept 2014 to Aug 2015:	$300,000
	Sept 2015 to Aug 2016:	$300,000

Network Partners	Organization Name	City/County	Organization Type
	Valley Health Team	Fresno County	FQHC
	United Health Centers	Fresno, Tulare, Kern	FQHC
	Golden Valley Health Centers	Merced and Stanislaus	FQHC
	Omni Family Health	Kern	FQHC
	Community Health Centers of the Central Coast	San Luis Obispo	FQHC
	Livingston Community Health Services	Merced	FQHC

The communities/counties that the HIT Workforce Development project serves		
	Livingston, CA	Hilmar, CA
	San Joaquin, CA	Firebaugh, CA
	Mendota, CA	Huron, CA
	Orange Cove, CA	Earlimart, CA
	Corcoran, CA	Le Grand, CA
	Dos Palos, CA	Los Banos, CA
	Newman, CA	Patterson, CA
	Buttonwillow, CA	Delano, CA
	Los Hills, CA	Taft, CA
	Wasco, CA	Ridgecrest, CA
	Tehachapi, CA	Arroyo Grande, CA

The target population served		
	Community Colleges	Students
	Community Health Centers (FQHCs)	Unemployed workers
	Rural Residents	Veterans

Description of the HIT Workforce Development project	LCHS's HIT Workforce Development project focuses on finding and equipping rural residents in Central California to work in HIT positions in several Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). The efforts of this project will be executed through a health center controlled network (HCCN) called the Central Valley Collaborative (CVC). The CVC provides many HIT services to its members to support the adoption and meaningful use of EHRs in these clinics, all of which use NextGen system applications for their clinical and practice management needs.

	Two successive cohorts of students will be recruited from eight counties around Central California to complete online education through Fresno City College, hands-on training with CVC staff, and apprenticeships in one or more of the 23 rural clinics within six of the CVC's networked organizations. Education will be based on the ONC curriculum for three workforce roles: Practice Workflow and Information Management Redesign Specialist, Technical/Software Support, and Trainer. Fresno City College will offer three eight-week sessions online, with CVC application and training offered in weeks between the eight-week sessions. Students will convene once monthly on Saturdays to deepen their learning through projects that prompt them to apply what they are learning independently in their education and training. Two of these sessions will contain content from another community college's Customer Service Academy where they will focus on growing their customer service and team building skills. Once students have completed their online education, they will begin apprenticeship assignments in clinics where they will work with HIT staff to gain experience working in rural clinics with NextGen applications. Students will spend time in their clinic-based apprenticeships and time alongside current CVC trainers and support staff, participating and assisting with trainings, Go-Lives, and troubleshooting. They will experience the project management, testing, training, and implementation of system upgrades, and assist with both regularly scheduled upgrades and day to day HIT needs at their clinic locations. The education and training for each group is scheduled to take 11 months. After these 11 months, students will receive support with resume, interview, and presentation skills, and participate in HIT career fairs coordinated by the CVC and regional partners. The students will receive evaluations, complete program evaluations, and receive the opportunity to take two AHIMA CHTS examinations. Ultimately, the hope is that students will find employment within the CVC, networked clinics, or partner organizations in a second level support tier within the region.

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Georgia Health Policy Center Technical Assistance Consultant information	Name:	Catherine Liemohn				
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Colorado

Valley Citizens' Foundation for Health Care Inc.

Grant Number	R01RH26280
Grantee Organization Name	Valley Citizens' Foundation for Health Care Inc.
Address	0310 County Road 14
	City: Del Norte State: CO Zip-code: 81132
Grantee organization website	
Grantee Project Director	Name: William D. Bolt PhD
	Title: Executive Director, Data Services for Healthcare
	Phone: 719-225-8866
	Fax: 719-225-8867
	Email: bbolt@dashnetwork.org
Project Period	2013 – 2016
Expected funding level for each budget period	Sept 2013 to Aug 2014: $300,000
	Sept 2014 to Aug 2015: $300,000
	Sept 2015 to Aug 2016: $300,000

Network Partners	Organization Name	City/County	Organization Type
	Rio Grande Hospital	Del Norte/Rio Grande	Critical Access Hospital
	Pueblo Community College	Pueblo/Pueblo	Educational Institution
	Southeast Colorado Area Health Education Center	Pueblo/Pueblo	Rural Health Support

The communities/counties that the HIT Workforce Development project serves		
	Baca	Lincoln
	Cheyenne	Phillips
	Huerfano	Prowers
	Kiowa	Rio Grande
	Kit Carson	Yuma

The target population served	Rural Workforce Students

| **Description of the HIT Workforce Development project** | Rio Grande Hospital, Data Services for Health care (DaSH), Pueblo Community College (PCC) and the Southeast Colorado Area Health Education Center (SECAHEC) have partnered to assist Colorado's rural, frontier and urban underserved counties in our state in reducing the disparities in the Health Information Technology Workforce.

PCC will provide the educational components of the program and will add rural content to enhance curriculum originally developed through their ONC-funded Health Information Community College Consortia Program. The revised education modules will be offered through an on-line platform in order to engage potential workforce living and working in remote rural areas to maximize local recruitment and retention. SECAHEC will provide essential recruitment coordination and promotion, implement the scholarship retention program, and will assist with student housing during on-site clinical training at Rio Grande Hospital and Clinics. Once students have completed either the degree program or the certificated program, DaSH will assist the students with workforce interviews and employment at a rural, frontier or urban underserved facility. The students commit to serving these areas for a period of no less than 2 years.

The overall goal of the DASH HIT Workforce program is to develop a consistent pool of highly qualified HIT workforce to provide continual support to rural providers |

	and ensure rural Colorado facilities have an EHR infrastructure that will meet current and future ONC Meaningful Use criteria. Achieving Meaningful Use of EHR systems will allow rural facilities to continue to provide the highest quality, most efficient and well-coordinated patient care that focuses on improving overall population health of the community.	

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	City:	Atlanta	State:	Georgia	Zip-code:	30303

Florida

Florida Department of Education, DBA North Florida Community College

Grant Number	R01RH26268
Grantee Organization Name	Florida Department of Education, DBA North Florida Community College
Address	325 NW Turner Davis Drive
	City: Madison State: FL Zip-code: 32340
Grantee organization website	www.nfcc.edu
Grantee Project Director	Name: Nancy Lillis
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	Phone: (850) 973-1661
	Fax: (850) 973-9467
	Email: lillisn@nfcc.edu
Project Period	2013 – 2016
Expected funding level for each budget period	Sept 2013 to Aug 2014: $190,914
	Sept 2014 to Aug 2015: $271,083
	Sept 2015 to Aug 2016: $275,192

Network Partners	Organization Name	City/County	Organization Type
	Doctors Memorial Hospital	Perry/Taylor	Hospital
	Madison County Memorial Hospital	Madison/Madison	Hospital
	Florida State University College of Medicine	Tallahassee/Leon	University
	North Florida Medical Centers, Inc.	Live Oak/ Suwannee	Medical Center

The communities/counties that the HIT Workforce Development project serves	Hamilton County	Madison County
	Jefferson County	Suwannee County
	Lafayette County	Taylor County

The target population served	Adult Rural residents	High School Students
	College Students	Local Displaced Workers
	Current health care staff	Veterans

Description of the HIT Workforce Development project	The existing North Florida Rural Healthcare Workforce Development Network (funded through HRSA in 2011) will launch a rural- focused HIT workforce program. The HIT course will be six months in duration and provide graduates with valuable skills that they can use within their communities to help providers make the transition to EHR and increase the numbers who are compliant with meaningful use thresholds. The Network will be integral to the process as its members will coordinate apprenticeship and job placement opportunities.
	Targeted students include currently employed healthcare workers who need to upgrade their skills to contribute to the HIT demand within their facilities, dislocated workers who have a college education and transferable skills (preferably Information Technology or medical), veterans, and rural residents including dual-enrolled high school and college students. All of these populations have the potential to complete the HIT certification exam and become employed in the district to address HIT worker shortage issues. Tuition reimbursement scholarships will relieve the financial burden of those participating. NFCC plans to graduate 120 students by the end of the three-year project. The expected outcome of the proposed services is an increase in qualified HIT workers within the district resulting in an increase in providers that are meeting meaningful use requirements.

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Georgia Health Policy Center Technical Assistance Consultant information	Name:	Deana Farmer				
	Title:	Technical Assistance Consultant				
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Indiana
Indiana Rural Health Association

Grant Number	R01RH26271
Grantee Organization Name	Indiana Rural Health Association
Address	1418 N 1000 W

	City:	Linton	State:	IN	Zip-code:	47441

Grantee organization website	www.indianaruralhealth.org

Grantee Project Director		
	Name:	Cindy Large, RN, BSN
	Title:	Network Director
	Phone:	812-478-3919 ext. 229 or 812-236-3059 (cell)
	Fax:	812-232-7908
	Email:	clarge@indianarha.org

Project Period	2013 – 2016

Expected funding level for each budget period		
	Sept 2013 to Aug 2014:	$300,000
	Sept 2014 to Aug 2015:	$300,000
	Sept 2015 to Aug 2016:	$300,000

Network Partners	Organization Name	City/County	Organization Type
	Ivy Tech Community College Indiana	Indianapolis/Marion	State College
	HealthLINC, Inc.	Bloomington/Lawrence	Health Information Exchange

The communities/counties that the HIT Workforce Development project serves	Statewide Rural Indiana. IRHITEN will focus on the 25 Indiana Statewide Rural Health Network InSRHN Members located in 25 counties across Indiana during year 1.
The target population served	Incumbent workers of Indiana rural health care providers, current Ivy Tech students, and recent graduates of health care and IT-related degree programs, veterans, and dislocated workers with a background in health care or IT.

Description of the HIT Workforce Development project	The goals of the Indiana Rural Health Information Technology Network (IRHITEN) are to:
	
	1. Delivery of a 22-week certificate program focused on two health IT roles:
	   • Clinician/Practitioner Consultant and
	   • Workflow and Information Management Redesign Specialist
	2. Development and refinement of a 4 to 8-week apprenticeship program, including 25 rural health care provider sites
	3. Student graduated will sit for the AHIMA HIT Pro certification exam
	4. Job Placement and Retention: Connection of graduates with health IT-specific jobs through search and placement resources and in collaboration with the network partners, rural health care employers, rural work force and economic development offices
	
	Through these efforts we anticipate an increase in the number of certified health IT workers working in rural health care settings and an increase in the number of rural health care providers achieving Stage 1, 2 and 3 Meaningful Use, leading to improved quality, safety, and cost in rural settings.

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Kentucky
Northeast KY Regional Health Information Organization

Grant Number	R01RH26276
Grantee Organization Name	Northeast KY Regional Health Information Organization
Address	151 University Drive

	City:	West Liberty	State:	KY	Zip-code: 41472

Grantee organization website	

Grantee Project Director		
	Name:	Kayla D Rose
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	Fax:	
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Project Period	2013 – 2016

Expected funding level for each budget period		
	Sept 2013 to Aug 2014:	$300,000
	Sept 2014 to Aug 2015:	$300,000
	Sept 2015 to Aug 2016:	$300,000

Network Partners	Organization Name	City/County	Organization Type
	Kentucky Rural Health Inform Tech Network	London, KY Laurel Co.	Rural health network
	Somerset Community College	Somerset, KY Pulaski Co.	Community College
	Maysville Community College	Maysville, KY Mason Co.	Community College
	Ashland Community College	Ashland, KY Boyd	Community College

The communities/counties that the HIT Workforce Development project serves		
	Bath	Lewis
	Bell	Magoffin
	Boyd	Mason
	Bracken	Menifee
	Carter	Montgomery
	Clay	Morgan
	Clinton	Nicholas
	Elliott	Pike
	Fleming	Powell
	Greenup	Robertson
	Knox	Rowan
	Laurel	Whitley
	Lawrence	Wolfe
	Leslie	

The target population served	Community colleges, regional university, critical access hospitals, rural hospitals, physician offices, FQHC's, rural health centers

Description of the HIT Workforce Development project	The workforce grant will leverage partnerships and collaborations to build our own regional HIT workforce to meet the ongoing and increased need in the future of a trained rural HIT workforce. The overall concept is not to detract from the programs that are already offered statewide but to supplement and help fill their needs by: 1) offering additional training relevant to the diverse needs of rural healthcare providers 2) linking students with network members who represent a wide variety of practice settings 3) providing sites for internships, including the option to rotate to different types of practices 4) providing necessary oversight of internship activities 5) providing incentives for certificate completion 6) Providing job placements for students completing the program 6) providing collaboration opportunities between network members and partnering organizations. Services related to HIT workforce development are available in the area; however, there has not been an organization to coordinate the work of multiple organizations. This grant project offers the opportunity to coordinate efforts and maximize the resources available in their networks and the community to meet the needs of the developing HIT workforce.				

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Georgia Health Policy Center Technical Assistance Consultant information	Name:	Catherine R. Liemohn			
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Minnesota
Lac qui Parle Health Network

Grant Number	R01RH26272
Grantee Organization Name	Lac qui Parle Health Network
Address	900 2nd Ave

	City:	Madison	State:	MN	Zip-code:	56256

Grantee organization website	www.lqphnmn.org

Grantee Project Director	Name:	Justin Taves
	Title:	Executive Director
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	Fax:	
	Email:	jtaves@lqphnmn.org

Project Period	2013 – 2016

Expected funding level for each budget period	Sept 2013 to Aug 2014:	$298,836
	Sept 2014 to Aug 2015:	$296,676
	Sept 2015 to Aug 2016:	$298,630

Network Partners	Organization Name	City/County	Organization Type
	Normandale Community College	Bloomington	College
	Medi-Sota	Dawson	Health Network
	Healthland	Glenwood	IT Vendor
	SW MN PIC	Marshall	Workforce
	MN West Comm & Tech College	Granite Falls	College
	Johnson Memorial Hospital	Dawson	Hospital
	Madison Lutheran Home	Madison	Hospital
	Appleton Area Health Services	Appleton	Hospital

The communities/counties that the HIT Workforce Development project serves	Swift	Lac qui Parle
	Sibley	Yellow Medicine
	Grant	McLoed
	Big Stone	Pope
	Lincoln	Meeker
	Todd	Watonwan
	Mahnomen	Lyon
	Chippewa	Renville
	Stearns	Ottertail
	Pipestone	Redwood
	Murray	Brown
	Nicollet Kandiyohi/ Cottenwood	Wadena

The target population served	Allied Health	EHR Vendors
	CAH's	Recruiters
	Community Colleges	Veterans

Description of the HIT Workforce Development project	Proposed Services: The MENTOR Health IT project will recruit and train rural residents in four work roles that have been identified as critical for helping member facilities to implement and optimize EHR systems and meet meaningful use criteria: Clinical Systems Specialist, Health IT Technician, Health IT Trainer, and HIT Analyst. These work roles are designed to provide facilities with a dynamic, flexible health IT workforce that will not only assist with the implementation of an EHR technology for facilities that have not yet been implemented, but will assist facilities to attest to Meaningful Use 1 and 2 and to continually adapt and improve systems to meet evolving community needs and healthcare mandates.
	Targeted for Recruitment: The project will recruit un- and under-employed rural residents with a focus on dislocated workers, veterans, students and recent graduates from the region's two- and four-year educational institutions, and members' employees already working in clinical settings. This "grow your own" recruitment and training strategy will result in facilities having access to skilled workers with ties in and a commitment to the local community. These individuals will help members meet meaningful use criteria by implementing and strengthening EHR facilities and by providing a cross-trained cadre of employees who can integrate health IT strategies into vertically- and horizontally-integrated healthcare systems.
	Expected Outcomes: As facilities have access to a stronger pool of skilled health IT professionals, they will be able to attest to Meaningful Use Stages 1 and 2. Leaner systems, access to real-time data, and greater focus on patient-centered care will result in improved health outcomes for residents. Health IT professionals will also support facilities' increased and improved use of telehealth and other mobile health technologies that can ensure all residents – and particularly elders – have access to the healthcare resources they need to be healthy, manage chronic health conditions, and age in their homes and communities.

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Montana
Montana State University

Grant Number	R01RH26275					
Grantee Organization Name	Montana State University					
Address	P.O. Box 172470					
	City:	Bozeman	State:	MT	Zip-code:	59717
Grantee organization website						
Grantee Project Director	Name:	Kristin Juliar				
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	Fax:	406-994-5653				
	Email:	kjuliar@montana.edu				
Project Period	2013 – 2016					
Expected funding level for each budget period	Sept 2013 to Aug 2014:	$300,000				
	Sept 2014 to Aug 2015:	$300,000				
	Sept 2015 to Aug 2016:	$300,000				

Network Partners	Organization Name	City/County	Organization Type
	MT Area Health Education Center	Bozeman, Gallatin	AHEC
	MT Primary Care Association	Helena, Lewis and Clark	Professional Association—Community Health Centers
	MT Performance Improvement Network (Quality Improvement within the MT Hospital Association)	Helena, Lewis and Clark	Professional Association--Hospitals
	Northcentral MT Healthcare Alliance	Great Falls, Cascade	Hospital Network
	Health Information Exchange of MT	Kalispell, Flathead	Hospital Network
	Monida Healthcare Network	Missoula, Missoula	Hospital Network
	Montana Health Network	Miles City, Custer	Hospital Network
	Mountain Pacific Quality Health Foundation	Helena, Lewis and Clark	Quality Improvement
	HealthShare Montana	Billings, Yellowstone	Health Information Exchange

The communities/counties that the HIT Workforce Development project serves	The Montana Rural HIT Workforce Development project will serve the entire state of Montana with the exception of three urban cities (Billings, Missoula and Great Falls).		
The target population served	Critical Access Hospitals	Incumbent Workforce (HIT)	
	Community Health Centers	Veterans	
	Displaced Workers		

| Description of the HIT Workforce Development project | The Montana Area Health Education Center (AHEC) will lead a network of networks in creating and sustaining a collaborative model that addresses health information technology workforce issues for Montana's rural and frontier health care providers, aiding or accelerating their meaningful use of Electronic Health Records to improve quality care and lower costs. The network members include pre-existing networks that serve the needs of their hospital and clinic members, quality and performance improvement networks, and the state health information exchange. The Montana Rural HIT Workforce Development Network and educational partners (4 community colleges) will recruit and train a minimum of 74 persons in one of seven established HIT programs over the project's three years. All program offerings are completely on-line. While primarily focusing on the incumbent workforce, the Network will reach out to veterans and displaced workers in recruitment. The Network will also place and aid in the retention of a minimum of 74 workers. All trainees will be trained in a CEHRT technology and participate in a minimum of 20 hours of on-the-job training. In addition, the Network will establish sustaining mechanisms to support long-term participant and network supports by the project end. The proposed training will benefit efficient, effective workflow design, help rural communities access and coordinate care, improve disease surveillance, target health education, and compile regional data – all activities aimed at improving health care quality and patient outcomes. |

Description of the HIT Workforce Development project	The Montana Area Health Education Center (AHEC) will lead a network of networks in creating and sustaining a collaborative model that addresses health information technology workforce issues for Montana's rural and frontier health care providers, aiding or accelerating their meaningful use of Electronic Health Records to improve quality care and lower costs. The network members include pre-existing networks that serve the needs of their hospital and clinic members, quality and performance improvement networks, and the state health information exchange. The Montana Rural HIT Workforce Development Network and educational partners (4 community colleges) will recruit and train a minimum of 74 persons in one of seven established HIT programs over the project's three years. All program offerings are completely on-line. While primarily focusing on the incumbent workforce, the Network will reach out to veterans and displaced workers in recruitment. The Network will also place and aid in the retention of a minimum of 74 workers. All trainees will be trained in a CEHRT technology and participate in a minimum of 20 hours of on-the-job training. In addition, the Network will establish sustaining mechanisms to support long-term participant and network supports by the project end. The proposed training will benefit efficient, effective workflow design, help rural communities access and coordinate care, improve disease surveillance, target health education, and compile regional data – all activities aimed at improving health care quality and patient outcomes.

Office of Rural Health Policy Project Officer information

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Georgia Health Policy Center Technical Assistance Consultant information

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New York
Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization

Grant Number	R01RH26269-01-00				
Grantee Organization Name	Fort Drum Regional Health Planning Organization				
Address	120 Washington Street, Suite 230				
	City:	Watertown	State:	NY	Zip-code:	13601
Grantee organization website	www.fdrhpo.org				
Grantee Project Director	Name:	Pat Fontana			
	Title:	Rural HIT Workforce Program Manager			
	Phone:	315-755-2020 ext. 17			
	Fax:	315-755-2022			
	Email:	pnlfont@fdrhpo.org			
Project Period	2013 – 2016				
Expected funding level for each budget period	Sept 2013 to Aug 2014:	$287,592			
	Sept 2014 to Aug 2015:	$298,915			
	Sept 2015 to Aug 2016:	$298,647			

Network Partners	Organization Name	City/County	Organization Type
	Samaritan Medical Center	Watertown/Jefferson	Hospital
	Carthage Area Hospital	Carthage/Jefferson	Hospital
	Lewis County General	Lowville/Lewis	Hospital
	River Hospital	Alex Bay/Jefferson	Hospital
	Claxton Hepburn	Ogdensburg/St. Lawrence	Hospital
	Clifton Fine Hospital	Star Lake/St. Lawrence	Hospital
	DANC	Watertown/Jefferson	Development Authority
	Jefferson County Public Health	Watertown/Jefferson	Public Health
	Jefferson County Community Services	Watertown/Jefferson	Behavioral Health
	Jefferson Physician Organization	Watertown/Jefferson	Phys Organization
	Northern Area Health Educ. Center	Canton/St. Lawrence	Community Organization
	Jefferson County Emergency Services	Watertown/Jefferson	Emergency Medicine
	Schwerzmann & Wise	Watertown/Jefferson	Community Rep.
	Guidance Counselor	Watertown/Jefferson	Community Rep.
	Dr. Kasulke	Watertown/Jefferson	Community Rep.

The communities/counties that the HIT Workforce Development project serves	Jefferson County	St Lawrence County
	Lewis County	

The target population served	SUNY Jefferson Community College	Current healthcare and IT staff
	Private practices	Rural residents
	Hospitals	Veterans
	Hospital based clinics	Active Duty Military and dependents
	Local displaced workers	

Description of the HIT Workforce Development project	Two Curriculums will be developed throughout the project. Curriculum A will prepare students for roles in management and leadership, in addition to technical roles involving the implementation and technical support of health IT systems. The course is conducted to emphasize strategies and principles that are best suited to address the barriers and challenges unique to health care settings in rural communities. This HIT curriculum aligns with professional competencies outlined by ONC. Curriculum B will prepare the students for roles as trainers, consultants and workflow re-design specialists. They will be trained to assist the provider in reorganizing workflows to leverage the full advantages of health IT, selecting the vendor and software best suited to the provider, designing processes and information flows that accommodate quality improvement reporting, and delivering training programs to health care employees. The course is conducted to emphasize strategies and principles best suited to address the barriers and challenges unique to health care settings in rural communities. This HIT curriculum also aligns with the professional competencies outlined by ONC. The students will be trained on Vitera Healthcare Solutions Intergy EHR. The N-CHIP has identified Vitera Intergy for hands-on training for several reasons. Identifying a single vendor for the training is a challenge for a rural area as rural hospitals, practices and clinics do not all have the same vendor. However, paying for training from multiple vendors would be cost-prohibitive. There are ten different CEHRT vendor EHRs being utilized by the seven hospitals and 23 provider practices that the N-CHIP currently works with. N-CHIP implementation and technical staff have evaluated these and identified Vitera Intergy as the one that would be the most beneficial to students to prepare them with the greatest set of transferrable skills to other vendors. The Network will place students in apprenticeships to provide them hands-on experience working with HIT in a clinical setting. These apprenticeship opportunities will be identified and detailed ahead of time during the employment plan development in year one. Students will be matched with apprenticeship opportunities within their area of expertise that will most likely lead to employment. Preceptors will be identified and screened utilizing a methodology that has been used for the past six years with other FDRHPO healthcare workforce internship and shadowing placement, such as nursing, allied health and physician. The N-CHIP HIT Workforce Program will develop a workforce hiring plan as part of its year one work plan activities so that the program is well-positioned to provide job placement assistance upon course completion. Several of the goal obtainment strategies will provide support to the workforce hiring plan, including promoting the value of ONC certification, providing apprenticeships within Network healthcare employer organizations and practices and identifying students during recruitment who are the most likely to have the attributes and skillsets that will be desirable to the healthcare employers upon completion.

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	Address:	5600 Fishers Lane, Room 5A-55				
	City:	Rockville	State:	Maryland	Zip-code:	20857
Georgia Health Policy Center Technical Assistance Consultant information	Name:	Beverly A. Tyler				
	Title:	Technical Assistance Consultant				
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	City:	Atlanta	State:	Georgia	Zip-code:	30303

North Carolina
McDowell Technical Community College

Grant Number	R01RH26274
Grantee Organization Name	McDowell Technical Community College
Address	54 College Drive

	City:	Marion	State:	NC	Zip-code:	28752

Grantee organization website	www.mcdowelltech.edu

Grantee Project Director		
	Name:	Valerie Dobson
	Title:	HIT Program Coordinator
	Phone:	828-652-0699
	Fax:	828-659-0437
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Project Period	2013 – 2016

Expected funding level for each budget period		
	Sept 2013 to Aug 2014:	$300,000
	Sept 2014 to Aug 2015:	$300,000
	Sept 2015 to Aug 2016:	$300,000

Network Partners	Organization Name	City/County	Organization Type
	Community Care of Western North Carolina (CCWNC)	Asheville, NC / Buncombe County	Regional Rural Health Network
	Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC)	Asheville, NC / Buncombe County	Health Education Center
	McDowell Hospital Physician Office Practices	Marion, NC / McDowell County	Hospital Physician Offices

The communities/counties that the HIT Workforce Development project serves	Buncombe County	Mitchell County
	Henderson County	Polk County
	Madison County	Transylvania County
	McDowell County	Yancey County

The target population served	Private Providers	Unemployed/Underemployed
	Rural Health Clinic employees	Veterans

| Description of the HIT Workforce Development project | McDowell Technical Community College in partnership with Community Care of Western North Carolina, Mountain Area Health Education Center and the McDowell Hospital Physician Office Practices seeks to train currently employed healthcare workers, IT professionals, veterans and displaced workers who are enrolled in a degree-seeking program at the community college. In Year 1, individuals enrolled in a degree-seeking program will earn a certificate in Healthcare Informatics and credentialing as a Certified Healthcare Technology Specialist (CHTS) which is awarded by American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA). As a result, graduates of the certificate program will be eligible to earn a CHTS designation in one of six workforce roles identified by the ONC HITECH Curriculum. The ONC curriculum will be integrated into the certificate and degree programs through course development.

During Years 2 and 3 of the program, participants will have the opportunity to continue working towards an Associate's Degree in Health Information Technology to earn the Registered Health Information Technician (RHIT) Credential also awarded by AHIMA. Participants who are not currently employed will be required to complete an apprenticeship through the North Carolina Department of Labor and Commerce at the conclusion of their courses. Those who are currently employed will have the option of completing an apprenticeship in a role other than their current position.

Marketing of the program to ensure student enrollment and job placement will be on-going throughout the life of the grant using internet/social media, tv/radio advertisements, newspapers, websites, and on-campus and off-campus informational sessions at various physician offices, hospitals and career fairs. |
|---|---|

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	City:	Rockville	State:	Maryland	Zip-code:	20857

Georgia Health Policy Center Technical Assistance Consultant information	Name:	Tanisa Adimu				
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	City:	Atlanta	State:	Georgia	Zip-code:	30303

Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Mountains Healthcare Resource Development

Grant Number	R01RH26277
Grantee Organization Name	Pennsylvania Mountains Healthcare Resource Development
Address	150 McCracken Run Road

	City:	DuBois	State: PA	Zip-code:	15801

Grantee organization website	

Grantee Project Director	Name:	Greg Snyder
	Title:	VP of Technology
	Phone:	814-372-2355
	Fax:	814-372-2354
	Email:	gsnyder@pmhalliance.org

Project Period	2013 – 2016

Expected funding level for each budget period	Sept 2013 to Aug 2014:	$300,000
	Sept 2014 to Aug 2015:	$300,000
	Sept 2015 to Aug 2016:	$300,000

Network Partners	Organization Name	City/County	Organization Type
	Pennsylvania State University, DuBois Campus	DuBois, PA	Higher Education
	Clarion Hospital	Clarion, PA	Hospital / Healthcare
	Elk Regional Health System	St. Marys, PA	Hospital / Healthcare
	Indiana Regional Medical Center	Indiana, PA	Hospital / Healthcare
	Punxsutawney Area Hospital	Punxsutawney, PA	Hospital / Healthcare

The communities/counties that the HIT Workforce Development project serves	Clearfield	Indiana
	Elk	Jefferson
	(Expect to expand to more than 8 other counties in PA)	

The target population served	Healthcare Employees	Students
	Rural Hospitals	

Description of the HIT Workforce Development project	Description of the community: The Pennsylvania Mountains Healthcare Resource Development (PMHRD) organization serves a geographic region in central Pennsylvania and southern New York comprised of more than 24 rural counties. Twenty hospitals participate in a data communication network focused on providing an infrastructure to exchange information and share mutually beneficial services. Each hospital is typically a sole hospital provider for their county.
	Community need(s): The current situation in rural Pennsylvania is that healthcare facilities do not have adequately trained employees in HIT to support meaningful use criteria. It is difficult not only to recruit qualified employees, but also to retain them. PMHRD member service areas are deemed as both areas of professional shortage as well as the medically underserved.
	Proposed services: The proposed grant-funded activities will provide for the recruitment of local potential employees and current healthcare employees. The students will complete the workforce education and training program allowing them to be qualified to accept and maintain employment in local rural healthcare facilities at self-sustaining wages. By upgrading the skills of the local workforce, we hope to impact retention of the workforce. Therefore, if we recruit from our rural communities, we will have a greater success in retaining the employees in the rural facilities. Since we plan to recruit from our PMHRD network facilities and place students in their apprenticeship module at network facilities, we anticipate many of the students will have the opportunity to maintain employment within the facility they complete their apprenticeship with.
	Students targeted for recruitment: Four main populations of potential students will be considered: 1) Incumbent HIT employees in need of additional training, 2) incumbent healthcare employees with no IT expertise who can retrain or be cross-trained to be more effective, 3) unemployed and underemployed workers in rural Pennsylvania, and 4) current students enrolled in Penn State DuBois' Information Sciences and Technology degree-earning programs. Utilizing the highly qualified and trained HIT professionals from this program, each of the PMHRD hospitals will be able to effectively meet the "meaningful use" criteria.
	Expected outcome(s) of the proposed services to the community's health status: As a result of the Rural HIT Workforce Program, the local community will see a strengthened, rural healthcare system in the region which allows for maximum economic benefit for "meaningful use" compliance for network participants. It will contribute to cost-effective retention of HIT staff in hospitals and also increase the HIT employment in the region. Finally, it will also contribute to the community's health status by contributing to an increased number of Information and Software Technology graduates with HIT skills placed in healthcare settings.

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South Dakota
Horizon Health Care, Inc.

Grant Number	R01RH26270
Grantee Organization Name	Horizon Health Care, Inc.
Address	P.O. Box 99

	City:	Howard	State:	SD	Zip-code:	57349

Grantee organization website	www.horizonhealthcare.org

Grantee Project Director	Name:	Lindsey Karlson
	Title:	Network Director
	Phone:	(605) 772-4525
	Fax:	
	Email:	lkarlson@horizonhealthcare.org

Project Period	2013 – 2016

Expected funding level for each budget period	Sept 2013 to Aug 2014:	$300,000
	Sept 2014 to Aug 2015:	$300,000
	Sept 2015 to Aug 2016:	$300,000

Network Partners	Organization Name	City/County	Organization Type
	Horizon Health Care, Inc.	Howard/Miner	FQHC
	Prairie Community Health	Isabel/Dewey	FQHC
	Union County Health Foundation dba allPOINTS Health Services	Elk Point/Union	FQHC
	Dakota State University	Madison/Lake	Education Institution

The communities/counties that the HIT Workforce Development project serves		
	Aberdeen/ Brown County *	Lake Preston/ Kingsbury County
	Alcester/ Union County	Martin/ Bennett County
	Bison/ Perkins County	Mission/ Todd County
	Bryant/ Hamlin County	Plankinton/ Aurora County
	De Smet/ Kingsbury County	Springfield/ Bon Homme County
	Elk Point /Union County	McIntosh/ Corson County
	Eagle Butte/ Dewey and Ziebach Counties	Wessington Springs/ Jerauld County
	Faith/ Meade County	White River/ Mellette County
	Howard/ Miner County	Woonsocket/ Sanborn County
	Huron/ Beadle County	Yankton/ Yankton County *
	Isabel/ Dewey County	

The target population served	Rural Federally Qualified Health Centers	Rural Incumbent Workers

Description of the HIT Workforce Development project	"It's a HIT!" Health IT Training for Rural Healthcare Providers will address the following barriers that exist within the proposed Prairie Health IT Network service area: shortage in rural Health Information Technology (HIT) workforce, adoption rates of Certified Electronic Medical Records and payment reform, and availability and accessibility to existing HIT training programs. The program has two goals which include: • Development of a comprehensive, relevant and engaging Health IT training program that will prepare the incumbent healthcare workforce in rural communities to support safety-net providers in their transition and adoption of Health IT technologies; • Development of a highly-skilled HIT workforce by expanding the skills of incumbent workers in rural areas to support HIT adoption, meaningful use, and ultimately improved healthcare outcomes.

	The program utilizes the Health IT expertise of Dakota State University to redesign the ONC HIT curriculum for delivery to incumbent healthcare workers in 20 rural communities across South Dakota. Curriculum enhancement includes improving the delivery of the training and the addition of gaming applications. The "It's a HIT" Training Program will educate providers and support staff in the area of HIT, particularly areas in EHR adoption including meeting Meaningful Use measures and redesigning clinic workflow to create efficiencies that will ultimately improve patient care.			
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	City:	Rockville	State: Maryland	Zip-code: 20857
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	Address:	14 Marietta Street, Suite 221		
	City:	Atlanta	State: Georgia	Zip-code: 30303

Texas
AHEC of the Plains

Grant Number	R01RH26267			
Grantee Organization Name	AHEC of the Plains			
Address	P.O. Box 1116			
	City: Plainview	State: TX		Zip-code: 79072
Grantee organization website	http://www.westtexasahec.org/Region_Plains/plainshome			
Grantee Project Director	Name: Danielle Askins			
	Title: Center Director			
	Phone: 806-291-0101 ext. 102			
	Fax: 806-291-0130			
	Email: danielle.askins@ahecplains.org			
Project Period	2013 – 2016			
Expected funding level for each budget period	Sept 2013 to Aug 2014: $300,000			
	Sept 2014 to Aug 2015: $300,000			
	Sept 2015 to Aug 2016: $300,000			

Network Partners	Organization Name	City/County	Organization Type
	Midland College	Midland	Higher Education
	West Texas HIT Regional Extension Office	Lubbock	Healthcare IT Consultants

The communities/counties that the HIT Workforce Development project serves	Andrews	Dickens	Kimble	Runnels
	Bailey	Eastland	King	San Saba
	Baylor	Ector	Knox	Schleicher
	Borden	Erath	Lamb	Scurry
	Briscoe	Fisher	Llano	Shackelford
	Brown	Floyd	Loving	Stephens
	Callahan	Foard	Lubbock	Sterling
	Castro	Gaines	Lynn	Stonewall
	Childress	Garza	Martin	Sutton
	Cochran	Glasscock	Mason	Swisher
	Coke	Hale	McCullouch	Taylor
	Coleman	Hall	Menard	Terry
	Comanche	Hardeman	Midland	Throckmorton
	Concho	Haskell	Mills	Tom Green
	Cottle	Hockley	Mitchell	Upton
	Crane	Howard	Motley	Ward
	Crockett	Irion	Nolan	Wilbarger
	Crosby	Jones	Parmer	Winkler
	Dawson	Kent	Reagan	Yoakum

Target population served	Employees of rural health care providers	Veterans
	Rural health care providers	

Description of the HIT Workforce Development project	West Texas has a vast geographic area that is underserved and is Texas' largest frontier land mass. The rurality of West Texas combined with the numerous uninsured residents who at or below the poverty level and lack education has contributed to a vast array of health disparities and consistent areas of medically underserved populations within the region. West Texas healthcare providers continue to implement the Electronic Health Record (EHR) systems in an effort to meet milestones and increase the communications between providers in rural areas and those within larger populations. Although there is an increase in implementation of the EHR in West Texas, there are not enough trained professionals in the Health

Information Technology (HIT) workforce, forcing sustainability of the EHR to be in question.

The Area Health Education Center of the Plains (AHEC of the Plains) is initiating the Rural Health Information Technology Workforce Program (Rural HIT Workforce Program) as a critical component to health careers and Health Information Technology (HIT) support of rural health providers. AHEC of the Plains will recruit students to participate in the Rural HIT Workforce Program whose focus is to recruit 20 students in one of two tracts (IT Interoperability Liaison, Data Quality Manager), for a total of 40 students annually. The program concept goal is to combine career development and provider needs in rural West Texas through recruitment, education, certified training, apprenticeship, and employment in the rural workforce. The program would serve as a building block and model for helping sustain the implementation of Electronic Health Records (EHRs) within the rural areas of West Texas by training and certifying people in the area to meet the Health Information Technology (HIT) needs. AHEC of the Plains is one of five AHEC centers in collaboration with the F. Marie Hall Institute for Rural and Community Health at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC), that helps support and promote a coordinated effort between TTUHSC, health care providers, communities, and counties across West Texas, which is one of the most rural and medically underserved regions of the United States.

The Rural HIT Workforce Program is a collaborative program that will focus on developing the health care providers of the future as well as supporting current health professionals in West Texas. AHEC of the Plains is working in collaboration with the West Texas Health Information Technology Regional Extension Center (WTxHITREC) at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) in Lubbock, Texas, along with Midland College in Midland, Texas. Midland College is providing training with ONC certified curriculum, with WTxHITREC providing service learning and apprenticeship. Recruitment, training, and employment efforts are area-wide and supported by the collaborators as well as the many providers already serviced by these entities.

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	City:	Atlanta	State:	Georgia	Zip-code:	30303

Virginia
Mountain Empire Community College (MECC)

Grant Number	R01RH26281
Grantee Organization Name	Mountain Empire Community College (MECC)
Address	3441 Mountain Empire Road
	City: Big Stone Gap State: VA Zip-code: 24219
Grantee organization website	www.mecc.edu
Grantee Project Director	Name: Nikki Morrison
	Title: Grants Coordinator
	Phone: 276-523-2400 ext. 416
	Fax: 276-523-4130
	Email: nmorrison@mecc.edu
Project Period	2013 – 2016
Expected funding level for each budget period	Sept 2013 to Aug 2014: $296,188
	Sept 2014 to Aug 2015: $286,940
	Sept 2015 to Aug 2016: $300,000

Network Partners	Organization Name	City/County	Organization Type
	Stone Mountain Health Services	Pennington Gap, VA	
	The Health Wagon	Wise, VA	
	Mountain Empire PACE	Big Stone Gap, VA	
	Southwest Virginia AHEC	Wise, VA	

The communities/counties that the HIT Workforce Development project serves	City of Norton, VA	Wise County, VA
	Lee County, VA	

The target population served	Community College	Rural Healthcare Providers
	Incumbent Healthcare Workers	Students

| **Description of the HIT Workforce Development project** | Under the Mountain Empire Health Information Technology (HIT) Workforce Initiative, MECC will partner with the Mountain Empire Rural Health Network to establish intensive, hands-on learning opportunities for students in its Health Information Management (HIM) associate degree program via internship placements with small, rural healthcare providers. Grant funds will support scholarship assistance for participants; program marketing and recruitment; program accreditation expenses; and other costs.

The target population will include individuals with a high school diploma, or equivalent, from the defined service region. It will include people from all socio-economic levels, veterans, and the unemployed or underemployed. Initial recruitment will focus on incumbent healthcare workers, in order to meet employers' most immediate need for training to support the effective deployment of electronic medical record (EMR) systems and meet meaningful use criteria.

The successful implementation of the Mountain Empire HIT Workforce Initiative will result in an increased number of trained HIT professionals that will improve the ability of small, rural healthcare providers to effectively utilize EMR systems to improve health outcomes for the residents of southwest Virginia. |
|---|---|

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	City:	Atlanta	State:	Georgia	Zip-code:	30303

Wisconsin
Southwest Wisconsin Technical College

Grant Number	R01RH26279		
Grantee Organization Name	Southwest Wisconsin Technical College		
Address	1800 Bronson Boulevard		
	City: Fennimore	State: WI	Zip-code: 53809
Grantee organization website			
Grantee Project Director	Name: Barbara Tucker		
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	Email: btucker@swtc.edu		
Project Period	2013 – 2016		
Expected funding level for each budget period	Sept 2013 to Aug 2014: $268,599		
	Sept 2014 to Aug 2015: $271,257		
	Sept 2015 to Aug 2016: $259,395		

Network Partners	Organization Name	City/County	Organization Type
	Southwest Wisconsin Workforce Development	Platteville, Grant	Workforce Board
	Scenic Rivers Area Health Education Center	Cashton, Monroe	Community Based, not for profit
	Prairie du Chien Memorial Hospital	Prairie du Chien, Crawford	Hospital
	Grant Regional Health Center	Lancaster, Grant	Hospital
	Southwest Health Center	Platteville, Grant	Hospital
	The Richland Hospital	Richland Center, Richland	Hospital
	Boscobel Area Health	Boscobel, Grant	Hospital

The communities/counties that the HIT Workforce Development project serves	Crawford	Richland
	Grant	Lafayette in Southwest Wisconsin
	Iowa	Eventual service to Dubuque County in Northeast Iowa

The target population served	Rural Hospitals	Rural specialty health providers
	Rural clinics	Southwest Wisconsin Technical College

Description of the HIT Workforce Development project	This project will allow Southwest Wisconsin Technical College (Southwest Tech), Southwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Board, and five independent critical care hospitals in Southwest Wisconsin to create a Health Information Technology Management program which meets the training needs of both new entrants into Health Informatics as well as current employees working in the field. To accommodate the needs of both student populations, this program will consist of flexible, sequenced, credentialed training certificates that align with the entry level to advanced job opportunities available in the field. When combined, these certificates will lead to an Associate Degree in Health Information Technology Management. Credits from the Health Information Technology Associate Degree will be aligned with Franklin University to enable the completion of a Bachelor's degree in Healthcare Information Management without repeated or redundant coursework. Internships will be infused into the training at strategic intervals and offered in a 72-hour, two-week format in rural southwest Wisconsin. Students enrolled in training from outside the district and in need of housing for the two-week internship will be offered student housing accommodations at the Southwest Tech campus. The training courses will be offered in a combination of online and face2face formats as needed to accommodate the learning styles and work schedules of students.

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