



## HRSA Capital Improvement Program Grants FAQ

On May 7, 2009, HRSA held a conference call to clarify some details of their Capital Improvement Program Grants available to community health centers under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). These grants – Announcement Number HRSA-09-244 – can be used to implement electronic health records. The following questions were asked during the HRSA conference call with answers provided by HRSA. Please review the HRSA website for the most accurate, up-to-date information. You can hear a recording of this conference call, or review information about ARRA funds available to CHCs, by visiting <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/recovery>.

### **Are you certified as an eligible EHR under HRSA capital grant due June 2<sup>nd</sup>?**

According to the HRSA conference call, CCHIT will be considered the certifying standard for these grants. Sage Intergy EHR v.5.5 is a CCHIT Certified® 08 Ambulatory [EHR](#), additionally certified for Child Health and Cardiovascular Medicine. For more information, please visit the CCHIT website at <http://www.cchit.org>.

### **You are proposing both a practice management system and EHR to me. Will I be able to include the entire proposal under the EMR category in the grant?**

**YES.** According to the HRSA conference call, if you are purchasing an integrated practice management system – like Sage Intergy CHC – with an EHR – like Sage Intergy EHR, you can include this as a single EMR project under the grant.

### **Will this money go to networks or health centers?**

All of the money under this capital grant (Announcement Number HRSA-09-244 ) will go directly to health centers. However, the health center can then “opt in” to a network’s EMR. Buying in to an EMR from a HRSA Health Center Controlled Network (HCCN) is considered an eligible EMR expense under the grant.

### **What are eligible costs under the EMR category for the capital grant program?**

Specific to EMR, any costs directly associated with the EMR or practice management and EMR deployment including – at a minimum – servers, tablets, consultation, software licenses and training are eligible under this grant. For costs not specified here, please seek guidance or check with HRSA.

### **I’m not sure I’m ready. Will there be other grant opportunities to help fund EMR for community health centers?**

HRSA is saying this is the **primary grant (from ARRA) that individual health centers will be able to apply for funds for EMR.** HRSA **strongly** encourages all health centers to apply if they want to ensure they have the potential to receive EMR dollars as part of a HRSA grant.

Of course, if health centers do not apply for or are not awarded a HRSA grant under this program, health centers will still have the opportunity to apply for the CMS incentives, assuming they qualify under that program.

### **If I apply, am I guaranteed to get the funds?**

**NO.** HRSA will evaluate each grant request just as they evaluate all other grant requests. However, this is not a competitive grant.

### **If I sign a contract with Sage now, will I still be eligible to receive grant funds?**

**YES.** You can apply for and may be eligible to receive funds from HRSA, even if you sign a Sage contract today. If you sign a Sage contract today, you will need to submit an application to HRSA by the HRSA deadline published on their website, and remember that grant monies are not guaranteed.

### **Does it matter if the vendor I choose doesn’t have CHC experience?**

HRSA highly recommended that health centers only choose vendors with CHC-specific experience. Hundreds of health centers across the United States use Sage products.

### **Other vendors are offering to help us write this grant. Why don't you offer this service?**

**HRSA made it very clear that vendors are NOT allowed to participate in the grant writing process.** Specifically, HRSA states that “VENDORS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GRANT WRITING PROCESS, OR THEY WILL BE INELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITING FROM THE GRANT FUNDS.”

