



Washington State Health Care Authority

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State of Washington makes \$2 million available for online health records

OLYMPIA – Washington residents may soon be able to have access to online versions of their medical records as the state begins a test program to evaluate the new technology.

The Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) today announced the availability of up to \$2 million for grant awards to Washington-based not-for-profit organizations to explore the viability and value of personalized online health records. With a maximum grant award up to \$600,000, it is possible that two to four regional grants will be funded for testing in early 2009.

The grant program is administered by the HCA through the Health Information Infrastructure Advisory Board (HIIAB) – a statewide board developing a strategy for adoption and use of electronic records in the state's health care community.

Washington Governor Chris Gregoire and the Legislature have long advocated the use of technology to reduce expensive redundancies in health care, and to better share information between providers and patients.

Using this new technology, patients will have the ability to view and share a copy of their medical record. The information is supplied by various health care sources. By having the ability to access and use their health information – patients would be able to manage when, how and with whom they will share all or part of their health information.

Any not-for-profit based in Washington State is eligible to receive grant monies – it is not required that the organizations be a 501c(3) charitable organization. The grant recipients can partner with for-profit or other not-for-profit entities to complete the scope of work.

The HCA Grant Solicitation document can be easily accessed at the HCA Web site: <http://www.hca.wa.gov/hit>. A grant solicitation conference will be held on Thursday, May 22, 2008; responses are due June 30, 2008; grant award recommendations will be announced on July 21, 2008; the pilot system(s) must be operational and in production by February 2, 2009.