

Washington Health Information Collaborative

2008 Questions and Answers

Note: As new questions are submitted, the questions and answers are added to the beginning of this document. Scroll down to see all questions asked and answered.

Posted July 10, 2008

Question: Does a clinic have to be structured as a non-profit to qualify for the grants offered?

Answer: Clinics do not have to be a non-profit in order to be eligible for the grants that are available to medical practices. The application for such grants is available online at: www.wahealthinfocollaborative.org/documents/2008Application_WHICgrant.doc

However, an organization must be a non-profit in order to be eligible for the "Community Grants." The application for community grants is available at: www.wahealthinfocollaborative.org/documents/2008Communitygrantapplicationfinal.doc

Question: Are any 2008 grants available for practices outside Washington state?

Answer: Yes. For grants available to medical practices, First Choice Health is making funding available to providers who are part of the First Choice Health network in Washington, Idaho, Alaska and Oregon. Funding from the Health Care Authority (HCA) is available to organizations in Washington state only. Because funding for the community grants comes solely from the HCA, only entities in Washington state are eligible.

Question: My practice received one of these WHIC grants last year. Can we apply to receive another one this year?

Answer: No. This year, as in previous years, past recipients are not eligible for additional grant funds.

Question: Is a physical therapy clinic eligible to apply for the medical practice grant?

Answer: If a specialty practice includes a clinician that is a Doctor of Medicine, Doctor of Naturopathy, Doctor of Osteopathy, Physician Assistant, or Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner, then the clinic or medical practice is eligible to apply for a grant.

Question: We are looking at requesting funds for the implementation of additional modules for our IT currently in operation. With the purchase of this module we are required to send individuals to training, as well as to bring individuals from our supplier to our hospital for the initial implementation. Are travel funds for these two items an allowable expense?

Answer: Yes, use of funds for travel to a training session is an allowable expense.

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Question: Are the IT grants solely for clinics and hospitals who have not already implemented electronic health records? We have implemented one, but it needs expansion, such as adding a recall system for health maintenance and disease management.

Answer: The grants may be used for initial acquisition of health information technology or enhancements to existing electronic health or medical record systems.

Question: Are awards limited to those in rural settings?

Answer: While there is a preference to award grants to rural projects, medical practices in urban areas are encouraged to apply as well.

Question: Should the grant be typed into the online application or submitted as a Word document? If you prefer a Word document, please define the format.

Answer: The grant application should be typed into the application form provided online at www.wahealthinfocollaborative.org/documents/2008Application_WHICgrant.doc. Complete the form, rename it and save it in your own files. It may be submitted by email or regular mail – please see the directions on the application for more detail.

Question: What do you mean by network infrastructure? Would firewalls and items to enable wireless access be considered part of the network infrastructure?

Answer: Firewalls and wireless access items are certainly part of the infrastructure, as are servers, wiring to accommodate high-speed connections (if necessary), etc.

Question: The cost of acquiring and installing an Electronic Medical Record are far more than \$20,000. Should I request that the grant amount be large enough to cover the entire cost?

Answer: The amount of the WHIC grant for providers is limited to \$20,000 per applicant. Your submitted budget should reflect all expected costs associated with the project, identify how the WHIC grant funds (up to \$20,000 maximum) would be used, and explain how the remainder of the expected costs will be covered.

Question: On Page 1 of the application, Question 2 under Patients refers to “active panel.” How is that defined?

Answer: An “active panel” is the number of people whom the practice or hospital considers their current patients, with the percentage of patients by primary payer (i.e. commercial carrier, Medicaid, Medicare, IHS, Tricare, self-pay, etc.). Hospitals may use the number of patients served in the last year.

If you have a question that is not answered above, please email it to awardsqna@hca.wa.gov