

Health Information Exchange California's High Level Plan to Secure Federal Stimulus Support

Key State Goals:

- Improve health care quality, delivery, access and safety for all Californians through a robust statewide health information exchange.
- Maximize California's competitiveness in applying for federal health information exchange (HIE) implementation funding.
- Support coordinated and collaborative efforts among a diversity of health care stakeholders to adopt Health Information Technology (HIT) and exchange health information and to develop and comply with statewide policy guidance, including information policies, standards, and technical approaches.
- Integrate and synchronize the planning and implementation of HIE, telehealth and provider incentive program components of the federal stimulus act.
- Ensure accountability and transparency in the expenditure of public funds.
- Improve public health through stronger public health surveillance and emergency response capabilities.

Process:

1. Project Initiation

The State will provide leadership and work with public and private partners to secure funding that will advance implementation of health information exchange (HIE). With the support of a contractor, the state will:

- Convene a meeting of relevant stakeholders from both the public and private sectors to seek input and inform these partners of the Administration's approach to position California to be ready to apply for federal HIE implementation funding.
- The Secretary of Health and Human Services will establish an HIE Advisory Board. The Advisory Board members will include the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency (BTH), Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO), and other public and private representatives. The Advisory Board will be an advisory body that will review and provide input on the process and deliverables associated with state implementation of HIE.

2. Assessment

To inform its efforts, the contractor will gather and assess information on existing HIE infrastructure and projects within California and in other states. The contractor will:

- Assist the Administration in determining the relative merits of the State or a State Designated Entity (SDE) providing HIE services.

- Catalogue governance, technical, business and finance strategies of selected states as agreed to with the Advisory Board.
- Compile information regarding significant HIE implementation projects currently underway in California. This will include determining the stage of implementation of each project and specific functionality such as: e-prescribing, electronic health record adoption (EHR), electronic laboratory results reporting, clinical data exchange, administrative payment processing, as well as technical architecture, involvement of key stakeholders, number of people, and regions served.
- Review procurement statutes to determine how the State may utilize a state designated entity (SDE), how the SDE must be structured to be in compliance with state rules, and whether statute revision is needed or desired.
- The Assessment will be presented to the Advisory Board for review and comments.

3. Gather Stakeholder Input

Using information gathered in the assessment process, the contractor will develop potential models for California HIE, solicit Advisory Board input, and engage stakeholders for review, discussion, and recommendations. The contractor will:

- Develop 2-3 straw models for governance, technical, business and finance structures that could be implemented by the State or the SDE.
- Convene stakeholder meetings to solicit input on the organizational and structural criteria and characteristics for either a State or SDE supported HIE. In order to ensure broad stakeholder support for statewide data exchange and the complex interactions and market issues associated with statewide implementation of HIE and EHRs, a significant public input process will be undertaken. Specifically the contractor will:
 - Organize stakeholder convenings to fully explore the issues and implications of the straw models and obtain feedback. Potential sites include Sacramento, Los Angeles and Fresno.
 - Solicit and gather written feedback to ensure broad stakeholder input.
 - Institute a web-based mechanism for additional public participation.
 - Provide an overview of stakeholder input to the Advisory Board.

4. Analysis

The contractor will establish a framework that can be used to evaluate installation and use of EHRs, create a state HIE plan, and define an SDE organization's structure, governance model, characteristics and requirements. The contractor will:

- Develop critical success factors to maximize the installation and use of EHRs by providers across the state, including definition of "meaningful use" that best supports California's success, alignment with state information exchange goals including use of interoperability standards, assessment of the possible role of Regional Extension Centers in advancing EHR implementation, and alignment with HIT Financing Advisory Commission recommendations.

- Develop success criteria and critical components of key governance, technical and business requirements including sustainability challenges, and identification of possible sources of matching funds.
- Define potential California SDE organization and structure, and develop principles to maximize the installation and use of EHRs and HIE across the state.
- Present to the Advisory Board for review and comments.

5. Develop Final Report

The contractor will develop a final report that will include an overview of the current environment for HIE and recommendations for moving forward with HIE implementation.






- The final report will address the current landscape, summary of known federal requirements, EHR advancement principles, proposed governance structure of a state or SDE supported HIE, architectural principles, data exchange requirements, clinical requirements, and high level implementation plan.
- The final report will include recommendations to the state regarding the use of EHRs and HIE by state institutions, including state Mental Hospitals, Veterans Homes, and Developmental Centers.
- The final report will be submitted to the Advisory Board.
- The Advisory Board will hold a public meeting to discuss the final report.

6. If necessary, develop procurement documents/process to select State Designated Entity

The State, through a joint workgroup of the California Health and Human Services Agency, BTH and OCIO, will develop and issue a RFP or RFI to designate an SDE, if necessary.

- Consistent with federal requirements, the state will develop a RFP or RFI for which nonprofit entities, meeting published federal criteria, will compete to be the SDE. Key RFP components will be a proposed scope of work for the SDE and proposed deliverables, proposed position descriptions for SDE management, and SDE performance monitoring criteria. The RFP or RFI will also include an outline of the proposed governance structure, architectural infrastructure criteria, functional requirements, business requirements, and minimum qualifications for applicants.

Proposed Timeline:

	<i>Month 1</i>	<i>Month 2</i>	<i>Month 3</i>	<i>Month 4</i>
Project Initiation				
Assessment				
Gather Stakeholder Input				
Analysis				
Develop Final Report				
Support State's Development of RFP/RFI				