

Arizona Regional Extension Center

Helping You Achieve Meaningful Use of Electronic Health Records & Receive Federal Incentives

What is the Arizona Regional Extension Center?

Now is the time to adopt electronic health records (EHRs)—and there is help to do it! \$634 million is now available to non-profit organizations nationwide to establish Health Information Technology Regional Extension Centers to assist primary care providers adopt and become Meaningful Users of EHRs and receive federal incentives, if eligible.

Within Arizona, Arizona Health-e Connection (AzHeC) was awarded funding to develop a Regional Extension Center program to serve Arizona healthcare providers. The program is a collaboration of AzHeC, Arizona State University’s Department of Biomedical Informatics, Health Services Advisory Group and the Purchasing & Assistance Collaborative for Electronic Health Records (PACeHR).

For eligible Medicare providers, up to \$44,000 per provider is available over a five-year period; eligible Medicaid providers can receive as much as \$63,750 over six years.

What Can the Arizona Regional Extension Center Do for Healthcare Providers?

The Arizona Regional Extension Center will serve as a neutral source for credible EHR and HIT information—something much needed as healthcare providers seek to navigate EHR options and select vendors who meet new federal Meaningful Use requirements.

The Arizona Regional Extension Center will also strive to fully identify and provide solutions to the challenges Arizona healthcare providers face in adopting EHR systems. Finally, and most important, the program will provide critical services to EHR adoption as outlined in Table 1 below.

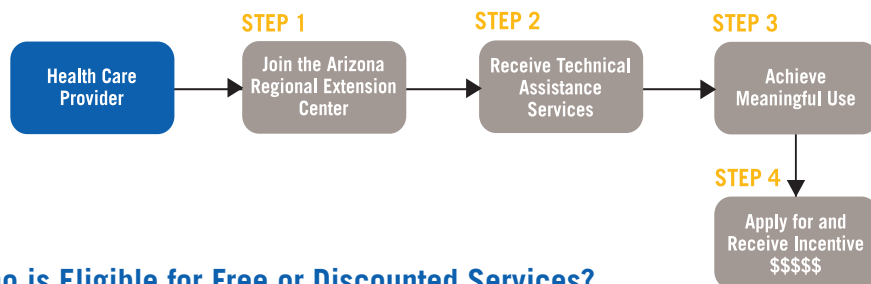
Table 1

Regional Extension Center Services	
General Assistance	Technical Assistance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach and education • Workforce support • Tools and resources in all aspects of electronic health record (EHR) and health information technology adoption (HIT) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vendor selection and preferred pricing • Project management • Practice and workflow redesign • System implementation • Interoperability and health information exchange (HIE) • Privacy and security

What is the HITECH Act?

In 2009 federal funds made available through the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act, a component of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), created an unprecedented investment in and opportunity for health information technology (HIT) in the U.S. Through ARRA, it is estimated HIT investments may reach \$40 billion over the next eight to 10 years. The final goal of the HITECH Act is to establish an electronic health record (EHR) for each person in the U.S. by 2014!

Regional Extension Center Provider Assistance Process



Who is Eligible for Free or Discounted Services?

Any Arizona healthcare provider is eligible for Arizona Regional Extension Center services, which will be provided at reasonable, needs-based fees. However, only providers that meet criteria in Table 2 below will be eligible to receive free Arizona Regional Extension Center membership (providers must sign-up by December 31, 2010 to receive free membership and services) or discounted services. Among Arizona’s estimated 6,700 primary care providers, AzHeC estimates 95 percent will qualify for free or discounted services. Please visit www.azhec.org to learn more about these free services to eligible providers.*

Table 2

Who Qualifies for Free or Discounted Services
<p>Primary care providers (physicians, physician assistants or nurse practitioners with prescriptive privileges, practicing in family medicine, general/internal medicine, OB/GYN or pediatrics) in any of the following settings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual and small group practices (ten or few professionals with prescriptive privileges) primarily focused on primary care • Public and Critical Access Hospitals • Community Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics • Other settings that predominantly serve uninsured, underinsured and medically underserved populations <p>* Unsubsidized assistance available to all providers, subject to availability. / Free services are subject to compliance to an agreed upon Project Plan.</p>

How Can I Learn More About the Arizona Regional Extension Center?

- Sign-up to receive Arizona Regional Extension Center email updates – email ehr@azhec.org to be added to the mailing list (Please put “AZ Regional Extension Center Updates” in the subject line and include your full name, title, organization, phone number and email address in the body of the email).
- Visit the Arizona Regional Extension Center webpage at www.azhec.org.

To learn more about how the Arizona Regional Extension Center can serve you, please call 602.688.7200, email ehr@azhec.org or visit www.azhec.org.

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What is Meaningful Use?

Under ARRA, Medicare and Medicaid incentive payments will be available to eligible healthcare providers. In order to receive incentive payments, providers must demonstrate “Meaningful Use” of a certified EHR system.

The Five Meaningful Use Categories

- Improve quality, safety, efficiency and reduce health disparities.
 - Engage patients and families in their healthcare.
 - Improve care coordination.
 - Ensure adequate privacy and security protections for personal health information.
 - Improve population and public health.
- Spread across these categories are individual criteria that comprise Meaningful Use. See our website for complete details.



A collaboration of:

