



The Oregon Electronic Medical Records Disaster Recovery Data Center

Federal Dollars Requested for FY 2009: \$4.9 million

Federal Bill & Account: Housing and Economic Development: Economic Development Initiative

Previous Federal Dollars: None

Total Federal Dollars Requested for the Project: \$7.0 million (over 2 years)

Total Amount of Project: \$7.5 million. OHSU will fund the initial project design and planning work in the amount of \$500,000.

Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) proposes the creation of an electronic medical records data center to provide disaster recovery capabilities for healthcare organizations throughout the state of Oregon. This project meets a vital local and state need for data security, and is consistent with HIPAA law which requires broad security and disaster recovery protection for “individually identifiable healthcare information.”

Hospitals, health systems and clinics face catastrophic consequences if mission-critical electronic medical record applications are disrupted by natural or terrorist events. Hospitals throughout the United States have developed disaster plans as a requirement of licensure or accreditation standards; however, these plans typically do not address data security. Most healthcare facilities create tape backups and store those tapes off site. While this protects the information the storage is often difficult to access in a timely manner – in many cases it would take weeks, if not months, to access backup tapes.

Oregon has a national reputation as a leader in adopting electronic medical record technology, with a 53 percent adoption rate, far above the national average of 29.2 percent. While this allows Oregon hospitals and clinics to provide the highest quality care to our patients, it also increases the risk of care interruptions should electronic medical record systems become unavailable.

If this request is funded, it would support the construction of a 6000 square foot secondary data center at OHSU that would provide disaster recovery data for not only the patients of OHSU but also for Oregonians cared for at a number of healthcare organizations throughout the state. OHSU has received support for this initiative from Salem Hospital, Legacy Health System, and Our Community Health Information Network (OCHIN).

OHSU has the technical skills necessary to create a clinical grade data center as well as the operational expertise to run such a facility effectively and efficiently in support of Oregon's healthcare needs.

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