

## Do You Have a Plan to Get Your EHR Stimulus Funds? The Colorado Regional Extension Center Can Help

Federal funding through the federal stimulus bill, known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), was made available to organizations to establish health information technology (HIT) Regional Extension Centers (REC) nationwide to assist primary care providers in adopting, implementing and becoming meaningful users of electronic health record (EHR) systems to qualify for federal stimulus funds. Colorado was granted funding to establish a center as an initiative of CORHIO and formed CO-REC to give providers the help they need.

### What Can CO-REC Do to Help Colorado Primary Care Physicians?

CO-REC, along with its partner organizations, will pursue a comprehensive strategy to support small PCP practices and specific hospitals to achieve meaningful use by providing the following services at no charge:

- Effectively select, implement and meaningfully use an EHR
- Provide standard contract language for EHRs and negotiated pricing including standard interfaces
- Assist with progress towards meaningful use of an existing EHR
- Help optimize your practice workflow to ensure improvements in the quality of care
- Educate you on EHR contract language regarding HIE interfaces before you select your EHR so that you can position your practice to take full advantage of interoperability
- Protect the integrity, privacy and security of your patient's PHI
- **Help you meet the qualifications for Incentive Payments for Medicaid or Medicare**

### Experience Gets Results

CORHIO has partnered with seven healthcare organizations with proven results delivering high-quality services to Colorado healthcare providers.



Colorado Community  
Managed Care Network



COLORADO  
RURAL HEALTH  
CENTER  
*The State Office of Rural Health*



QUALITY  
HEALTH  
N-E-T-W-O-R-K  
*Improving care through shared technology*

### Who is Eligible for No-Cost REC Services?

Providers that meet federal "priority primary care provider" criteria will be eligible to receive no-cost REC services, this includes:

- Physicians, or other healthcare providers such as physician assistants and nurse practitioners with prescribing privileges
- Family medicine, general medicine, pediatrics, OB/GYN and geriatrics in individual and small group practices (ten or fewer professionals)
- Public and critical access hospitals
- Community health centers (CHCs)
- Rural health clinics (RHCs) and rural hospitals
- Other settings that predominately serve uninsured, underinsured and medically underserved populations such as Community funded safety net clinics or other free clinics

*For more information about REC Eligible Providers, visit [www.HEALTHIT.HHS.GOV](http://www.HEALTHIT.HHS.GOV)*

Medicare Incentives/Penalties for Providers						
Payment Year	EHR Adoption Year					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015+	
2011	\$18,000					
2012	\$12,000	\$18,000				
2013	\$8,000	\$12,000	\$15,000			
2014	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$12,000	\$12,000		
2015	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$8,000		-1%
2016		\$2,000	\$4,000	\$4,000		-2%
2017						-3%
2018						-4%
2019						-5%
Total	\$44,000	\$44,000	\$39,000	\$24,000		

### Important Facts About Incentives

- Providers are eligible for one incentive category
- Medicare incentives are capped at 75% of allowable Medicare charges. To obtain the full \$18,000 you must have at least \$24,000 in allowable charges
- Providers in health professional shortage area (HPSA) may be eligible for an additional 10%
- Providers who do not achieve meaningful use by 2015 will have Medicare payments penalized by 1% in 2015, increasing each year by another 1% to a maximum of 5% penalty
- To be eligible for Medicaid incentives at least 30% of your patient volume must be Medicaid beneficiaries or 20% if pediatrician
- Allowable cost for EHR implementation in year one must not exceed \$25,000

Visit [www.CMS.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms](http://www.CMS.gov/EHRIncentivePrograms) for the most up-to-date information

Medicaid Incentives for Providers						
Payment Year	EHR Adoption Year					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
2011	\$21,250					
2012	\$8,500	\$21,250				
2013	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$21,250			
2014	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$21,250		
2015	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$21,250	
2016	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$21,250
2017		\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500
2018			\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500
2019				\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500
2020					\$8,500	\$8,500
2021						\$8,500
Total	\$63,750	\$63,750	\$63,750	\$63,750	\$63,750	\$63,750

## Optimize Your Medical Practice Today

The Colorado Regional Extension Center understands the challenges medical practices face with implementing health information technology. Whether you're a pro at your EHR or just starting out on your digital journey, CO-REC is dedicated to helping you navigate your way to meaningful use.

- ✓ We are committed to providing high-quality, unbiased HIT information
- ✓ We are dedicated to helping providers achieve federal incentive dollars in the quickest time possible through demonstration of meaningful use
- ✓ We will provide evaluation of EHR systems that offer key functionality, ease of reporting, transmittal and receipt of outside information and group pricing agreements
- ✓ We will work to limit the disruptions in your practice during this challenging time

**Get started today!** [www.CORHIO.org](http://www.CORHIO.org) or call Robyn Leone at 720.285.3245, email: COREC@corhio.org  
If you are currently involved with one of the organizations listed on the reverse side, you may contact them to see if you qualify for REC Services.