

The National Center for Public Health Informatics (NCPHI) is in the process of developing a request for proposals to support public health situational awareness through establishing, and/or enhancing public health services (data exchange, analysis, etc.) in existing Health Information Exchanges (HIEs).

Data to support the nation's public health needs increasingly can be derived from electronic health systems that support clinical care. Healthcare entities, often funded by grants from state or federal agencies, are now creating formal organizations to actuate the exchange of health data among participating entities. The focus of these HIEs has mostly been on clinical health information exchange with limited emphasis on biosurveillance or simultaneous reporting to local and state public health departments. Additional investment in the Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN) is needed to support HIE services for early detection and rapid response to potentially catastrophic infectious disease outbreaks and other public health emergencies.

Given the need to network systems, CDC has leveraged the BioSense program to quickly improve the nation's capabilities for real-time biosurveillance and health situational awareness. Since its inception, BioSense has focused on harmonizing data at the hospital and hospital system level for reporting to CDC with simultaneous reporting to state and local health departments. The goal of this request is to accelerate health data and information connectivity by supporting the exchange of ambulatory care and emergency department visit, utilization and lab result data from electronically enabled health care delivery systems and services with public health via a HIE infrastructure.

Successful HIEs will be required to participate in the Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN) process (meetings, specification development and interoperability testing). Successful HIEs will also need to use the relevant data and technical standards identified by the Health Information Technology and Standards Panel (HITSP) Interoperability Specifications for the fulfillment of this activity.

Data to support early detection, situational awareness, and rapid response management will be shared (appropriately anonymized and in standard format) with authorized Public Health Agencies and care delivery communities. Public health emergencies with high-risk of impact on morbidity and mortality such as seasonal influenza, and other infectious diseases, will be of particular focus.

The primary goal of this five-year effort is to facilitate innovations or proof-of-concept in public health within HIEs with the goals of supporting public health emergencies, enhancing biosurveillance capabilities, and field-testing the Minimum Data Set accepted by American Health Information Community (AHIC). Support will be provided to multiple HIEs to establish or enhance public health use of clinical and other health information for purposes of biosurveillance and outbreak detection. Awards will be made to established HIEs to identify innovations to improve the operation of information technology systems, facilitate the secure exchange of data and information, and train personnel to enhance the operation of the system to integrate public health data

accessibility and reporting into the HIE. Awards will also be made to less established HIEs to implement existing technology, policy, and governance rules to integrate public health into the HIE (proof-of-concept).

The contractor's primary goal will be to improve public health situational awareness capability through an interoperable network of systems to share data and information to enhance early detection, rapid response to, and management of public health emergencies. This typically involves collaboration with state, local, and tribal public health officials (or regional representation), regional clinical care and public health care providers, and staff to provide technical and administrative services for project planning and logistics, training and communications, data collection, management and analysis, data privacy and security, data sharing agreements and related support activities. Additional information is available at [www.fbo.gov](http://www.fbo.gov).