

ARRA Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the difference between ARRA and HITECH?

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is officially Public Law 111-5 and was signed on February 17, 2009 by President Barack Obama. ARRA provides many different stimulus opportunities, one of which is \$19.2 billion on health IT. Title XIII of ARRA was given a subtitle: Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH). It is this section that deals with many of the health information communication and technology provisions including Subpart D – Privacy.

What is the total health IT funding?

- \$20.819 billion in incentives through the **Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement systems** to assist providers and organizations in the adoption of electronic health records.
- \$4.7 billion for National Telecommunications and Information Administration's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.
- \$2.5 billion for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program.
- \$2 billion for the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC).
- \$1.5 billion for construction, renovation, and equipment for health centers through the Health Resources and Services Administration.
- \$1.1 billion for comparative effectiveness research within the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
- \$500 million for the Social Security Administration.
- \$85 million for health IT, including telemedicine services, within Indian Health Services.
- \$50 million for information technology within the Veteran's Administration.

Where can I find the actual ARRA legislation?

<http://www.thomas.gov/home/approp/app09.html#h1>

Where can I find AHIMA's review of ARRA?

<http://cms.ahima.org/downloads/pdfs/advocacy/ARRARReviewDDAFinal4102009.pdf>

Where can I find a list of important ARRA dates?

<http://cms.ahima.org/downloads/pdfs/advocacy/AHIMARReviewofARRARRequiredReports.pdf>

Where can I find AHIMA's analysis of ARRA's impact on Privacy?

<http://cms.ahima.org/advocacy/arralegislationregulation.aspx>

When do Medicare and Medicaid incentives begin?

Initial funding begins in 2011 for both organizations and providers; however it varies depending on the program. Funding also varies due to complex mathematical formulas and when providers or organizations begin. Everyone is encouraged to prepare early.

What types of providers and organizations are eligible for Medicare incentives?

Eligible providers are clearly defined as "physicians" in section 4101 of the Act. Organizations are defined as Acute Care Facilities and Critical Access Hospitals.

What types of providers and organizations are eligible for Medicaid incentives?

Eligible providers for Medicaid incentives include:

- Non-hospital based providers who have at least 30% of their patient volume attributed to Medicaid patients; this includes: Dentist, Certified Nurse Mid-wives, Nurse Practitioners, and some Physician Assistants
- Non-hospital based Pediatric Providers who have at least 20% of their patient volume attributed to Medicaid patients.

Eligible organizations include:

- Children's Hospitals
- Acute Care Hospitals with at least 10% of their patient volume attributed to Medicaid patients
- Federally qualified rural health clinics with at least 30% of their patient volume attributed to Medicaid patients.

Are incentives for providers designated by practice or providers?

Each provider (as defined by ARRA as listed above) may receive incentive payments. If the provider is a part of a group practice, each physician within the practice would be eligible independently of the others.

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Where can I find resources from ONC or CMS?

ONC has developed a comprehensive website on Health IT at www.healthit.hhs.gov. CMS also has a webpage and resources on HIT at http://www.cms.gov/Recovery/11_HealthIT.asp.