

NEWS REPORT 07/08/2018 11:00 pm ET

# Pennsylvania Awards Up To \$8 Million In Four HIE Grants Through Pennsylvania Patient & Provider Network



On June 12, 2018, the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) with Pennsylvania eHealth Partnership Program, awarded nearly \$8 million in potential onboarding grants to support electronic health information exchange (eHIE) between hospitals, nursing homes, home health, hospice, and physician offices through the the Pennsylvania Patient & Provider Network (P3N). The grants were awarded to the state's four health information organizations (HIOs): ClinicalConnect Health Information Exchange; HealthShare Exchange (HSX); Keystone Health Information Exchange (KeyHIE); and Mount Nittany Exchange. Mount Nittany Exchange, KeyHIE, and HSX volunteered to participate in the ADT exchange initiative. The P3N grants enable eHIE across the state by connecting health care provider organizations to HIOs.

Final award amounts for each HIO are dependent on their services provided by September 30, 2018 in accordance with Grant Agreement requirements. Total awards provided will depend on the amount of work that is completed. In total, the awardees will connect up to more than 190 entities. The awards with potential maximums offered to each HIO were as follows:

- ClinicalConnect Health Information Exchange was awarded a maximum of \$1,030,000. The organization will connect up to 20 inpatient hospitals and skilled nursing facilities in Western Pennsylvania. The organization will connect up to 14 outpatient provider organizations.
- HealthShare Exchange was awarded a maximum of \$3,320,000. The organization will connect up to 59 inpatient hospitals and skilled nursing facilities in Southeastern Pennsylvania. The organization will connect up to 19 outpatient provider organizations. HealthShare Exchange will also create three provider organization portals.
- Keystone Health Information Exchange was awarded a maximum of \$3,150,000. The organization will connect up to 25 inpatient hospitals and skilled nursing facilities in Central Pennsylvania. The organization will connect up to 41 outpatient provider organizations.
- Mount Nittany Exchange was awarded a maximum of \$495,000. The organization will connect up to 5 inpatient hospitals and skilled nursing facilities in Central Pennsylvania. The organization will connect up to 6 outpatient provider organizations.

The onboarding grants are intended to support the following:

- Help provider organizations deliver higher quality and more efficient care, particularly through better care coordination for patients covered by Medicaid
- Support provider organization participation in private-sector HIOs by offsetting connection costs
- Incentivize HIOs to join the P3N, as a precondition for receiving funding
- Support rapid movement toward the participation in eHIE and support various care reform efforts currently underway across the commonwealth
- Defray up-front costs for individual provider organizations to join an HIO, to help the provider organizations achieve meaningful use and satisfy obligations under the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program

This program is made possible through a grant from the federal Centers of Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Under the terms of the federal grant, CMS provides 90% of the onboarding grant funds, with the remaining 10% funded by the commonwealth.

P3N recently launched a real-time statewide encounter notification service to enable improved care coordination. The statewide Admission, Discharge, Transfer (ADT) notification service became operational on January 31, 2018, with three regional HIOs and eight hospital emergency departments sending real-time ADTs; the service now has 25 EDs sending ADT messages. This assist physicians in providing follow-up care and coordination.

A list of entities that will be connected through these grants is posted online at

<http://dhs.pa.gov/learnaboutdhs/dhsorganization/ehealthpartnership/2018onboardinggrantrecipients/index.htm> (accessed July 2, 2018).

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