

United RECs of America

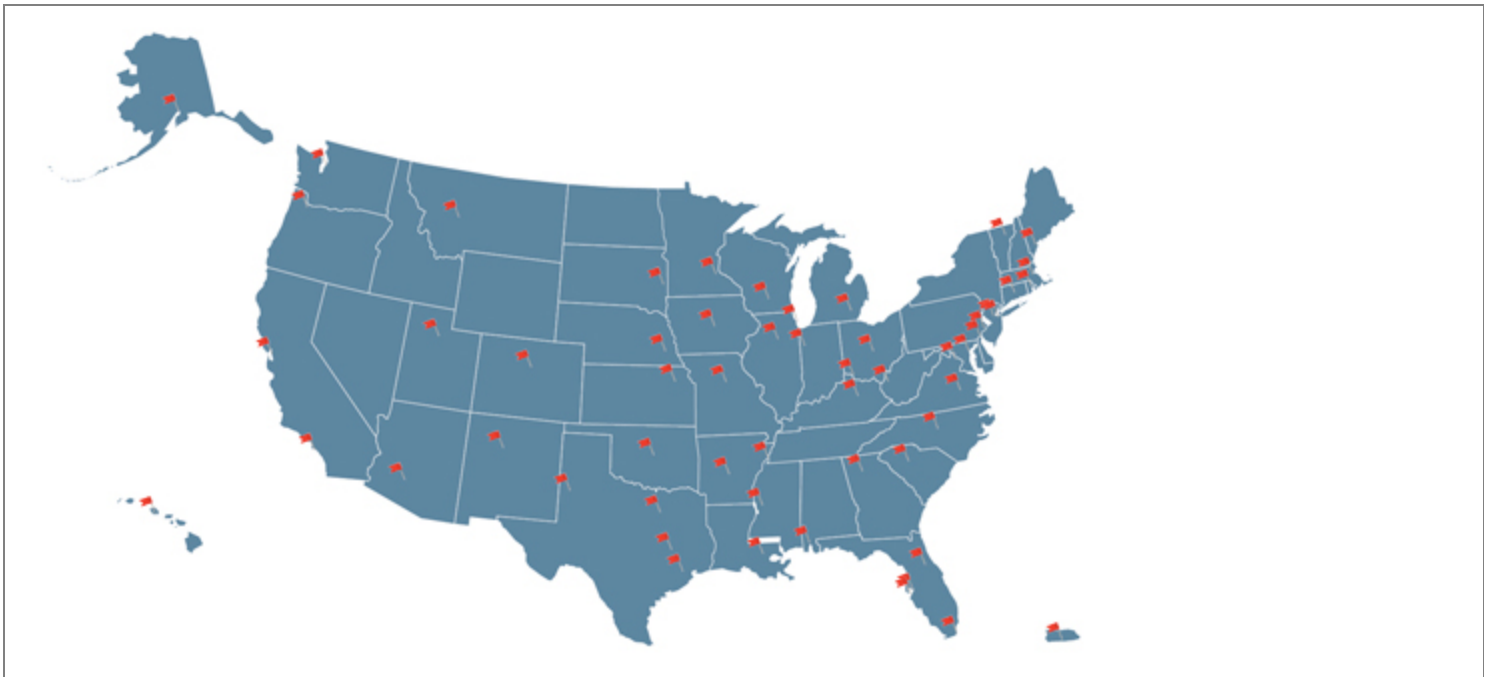
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Most of the 60 regional extension centers have officially launched operations and begun helping providers implement health IT.

The RECs were created under the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which provided \$642 million in grants for the centers' first two years of operations.

RECs are charged with assisting healthcare providers implement health IT-like EHRs-that meet the "meaningful use" standards developed by the Department of Health and Human Services. Providers that meet the meaningful use requirements will have the opportunity to collect thousands of dollars in incentive payments from the government.

Since receiving the ARRA grants in February and April, the RECs have been busy creating operations and business models and filling staff positions with health IT experts.

**Alabama**

AL-REC

Mobile, AL

Contact: info@al-rec.org<http://www.al-rec.org>**Alaska**

Alaska eHealth Network

Anchorage, AK

Contact: rebecca@ak-ehealth.org<http://www.ak-ehealth.com>**Arizona**

Arizona Health-e Connection

Phoenix, AZ

Missouri

Missouri Health IT Assistance Center

Columbia, MO

Contact: assistancecenter@missouri.edu<http://www.assistancecenter.missouri.edu>**Montana**

Mountain-Pacific Quality Health Foundation

Helena, MT

Contact: jconnors@mpqhf.org<http://www.mpqhf.org>**Nebraska**

Wide River Technology Extension Center

Lincoln, NE

Contact: melissa.rutala@azhec.org
<http://www.azhec.org>

Arkansas

HIT/Arkansas
 Little Rock, AR
 Contact: hitarkansas@afmc.org
<http://www.hitarkansas.com>

California

HITEC-LA
 Los Angeles, CA
 Contact: sahmed@lacare.org
<http://www.lacare.org/aboutlacare/hitec-la>

Cal-HIPSO (Northern and Southern California)
 Oakland, CA
 Contact: info@calhipso.org
<http://www.calhipso.org>

Colorado

CO-REC
 Denver, CO
 Contact: palbritton@corhio.org
<http://www.corhio.org>

Connecticut

eHealth Connecticut
 Rocky Hill, CT
 Contact: scleary@gosmcpartners.com
<http://www.ehealthconnecticut.org>

Delaware

DE REC
 Wilmington, DE
 Contact: bschindele@wvmi.org
<http://www.dehitrec.org>

District of Columbia

DC-REC
 Washington, DC
dramosjohnson@dcpc.org
<http://dcpc.org>

National Indian Health Board
 Washington, DC
 Contact: sbohlen@nihb.org
<http://www.nihb.org>

Florida

Rural and North Florida REC (RNF-REC)
 St. Petersburg, FL
 Contact: rec@chcalliance.org
<http://www.chcalliance.org/services/regionalextensioncenter.aspx>

Contact: info@widerivertec.org
<http://www.widerivertec.org>

Nevada

HealthInsight
 Salt Lake City, UT
 Contact: rec@healthinsight.org
<http://www.healthinsight.org>

New Hampshire

TBA

New Jersey

NJ-HITEC
 Newark, NJ
 Contact: sebastian@njit.edu
<http://www.njit.edu>

New Mexico

New Mexico Health Information Collaborative
 (LCF Research)
 Albuquerque, NM
 Contact: help@nmhic.org
<http://www.nmhic.org>

New York

NYC REACH
 New York, NY
 Contact: aparsons@health.nyc.gov
<http://www.nycreach.org>

NYeC-REC

New York, NY
 Contact: pwilder@nyehealth.org
<http://www.nyecrec.org>

North Carolina

NC-REC
 Chapel Hill, NC
 Contact: tom_bacon@med.unc.edu
<http://www.ncahec.rec.net>

North Dakota

Key Health Alliance REACH
 Bloomington, MN
 Contact: info@khaREACH.org
<http://www.khareach.org>

Ohio

Tri-State Regional Extension Center
 (Greater Cincinnati HealthBridge)
 Cincinnati, OH
 Contact: REC@healthbridge.org
<http://www.healthbridge.org>

South Florida REC

Miami, FL

Contact: info@southfloridarec.org
<http://www.southfloridarec.org>**Central Florida Health IT Initiative**

Orlando, FL

Contact: info@ucf-rec.org
<http://www.ucf-rec.org>**Paper Free Florida**

Tampa, FL

Contact: clesko@health.usf.edu
<http://health.usf.edu/paperfree/index.htm>**Georgia**

GA-HITREC

Atlanta, GA

Contact: dmack@msm.edu
<http://www.primarycareforall.org>**Hawaii**

Hawaii Health Information Exchange

Honolulu, HI

Contact: csakuda@hawaiiipca.net
<http://www.hhie.org>**Idaho**

WIREC (Qualis Health)

Seattle, WA

Contact: peggye@qualishealth.org
<http://www.wirecqh.org>**Illinois**

CHITREC

Chicago, IL

Contact: info@chitrec.org
<http://www.chitrec.org>**IL-HITREC**

DeKalb, IL

(Covers all non-Chicago zip codes)

Contact: info@ilhitrec.org
<http://www.ilhitrec.org/ilhitrec>**Indiana**

I-HITEC

West Lafayette, IN

Contact: ihitec@purdue.edu
<http://www.ihitec.purdue.edu>**Tri-State Regional Extension Center**

(Greater Cincinnati HealthBridge)

Cincinnati, OH

Ohio Health Information Partnership

Columbus, OH

Contact: amy.andres@ins.state.oh.us;
info@OHIPonline.org
<http://ohiponline.org>**Oklahoma**

OKHITEC

Oklahoma City, OK

Contact: Dgolder@ofmq.com
<http://www.ofmq.com/hitrec>**Oregon**

O-HITEC

Portland, OR

Contact: info@ohitec.org
<http://o-hitec.org>**Pennsylvania**

REACH East

King of Prussia, PA

Contact: asomplasky@wvmi.org
<http://www.pareacheast.org>

REACH West

King of Prussia, PA

Contact: asomplasky@wvmi.org
<http://www.pareachwest.org>**Rhode Island**

RI Regional Extension Center

Providence, RI

Contact: gchristensen@riqi.org
<http://www.docehrtalk.org>**South Carolina**

CITIA-SC

Columbia, SC

Contact: info@healthsciencessc.org
<http://www.citiasc.org>**South Dakota**

SD-REC

Madison, SD

Contact: dan.friedrich@dsu.edu
<http://www.cahit.dsu.edu>**Tennessee**

tnREC

Memphis, TN

Contact: jmcanally@qsource.org
<http://www.tnrec.org>**Texas**

North Texas REC

Contact: REC@healthbridge.org
<http://www.healthbridge.org>

Iowa

Iowa IFMC
 West Des Moines, IA
 Contact: iowahitrec@ifmc.org
<http://www.iowahitrec.org>

Kansas

Kansas Foundation for Medical Care
 Topeka, KS
 Contact: recsupport@kfmc.org
<http://www.kfmc.org/rec>

Kentucky

Kentucky Regional Extension Center
 Lexington, KY
 Contact: rob.edwards@uky.edu
<http://www.kentuckyrec.org>

Tri-State Regional Extension Center
 (Greater Cincinnati HealthBridge)
 Cincinnati, OH
 Contact: REC@healthbridge.org
<http://www.healthbridge.org>

Louisiana

eQHealth Solutions
 Baton Rouge, LA
 Contact: rbordelon@eqhs.org
<http://www.eqhs.org/rec/home.aspx>

Louisiana Health Care Quality Forum
 Baton Rouge, LA
 Contact: lrogerson@lhcf.org
<http://www.lhcf.org>

Maine

Maine Regional Extension Center
 Portland, ME
 Contact: info@hinfonet.org
<http://www.hinfonet.org>

Maryland

Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients
 (CRISP)
 Baltimore, MD
 Contact: daniel.wilt@crisphealth.org
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Massachusetts

Regional Extension Center for Commonwealth of
 Massachusetts
 Boston, MA

Dallas, TX
 Contact: malverson@ntrec.org
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CentrEast REC
 Bryan, TX
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West Texas-HITREC
 Lubbock, TX
 Contact: billy.philips@ttuhsc.edu
<http://www.ttuhsc.edu>

Gulf Coast REC
 Houston, TX
 Contact: GCREC@uth.tmc.edu
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Utah

HealthInsight
 Salt Lake City, UT
 Contact: rec@healthinsight.org
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Vermont

VITL
 Montpelier, Vermont
 Contact: lgilbert@vitl.net
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Virginia

VHQC (Virginia HITREC)
 Richmond, VA
 Contact: czager@vhqc.org
<http://www.vhqc.org>

Washington

WIREC (Qualis Health)
 Seattle, WA
 Contact: peggye@qualishealth.org
<http://www.wirecqh.org>

West Virginia

WVRHITEC
 Scott Depot, WV
 Contact: info@wvrhitec.org
<http://www.wvrhitec.org>

Wisconsin

WHITEC (MetaStar)
 Madison, WI
 Contact: jwang@metastar.com
<http://www.whitec.org>

Contact: shoup@masstech.org
<http://www.maehi.org>

Michigan

Michigan Center for Effective IT Adoption (M-CEITA)
 Ann Arbor, MI
 Contact: mceita.info@altarum.org
<http://www.mceita.org>

Minnesota

REACH
 Bloomington, MN
 Contact: info@khareach.org
<http://www.khareach.org>

Mississippi

eQHealth Solutions
 Jackson, MS
 Contact: rbordelon@eqhs.org
<http://www.eqhs.org/rec/home.aspx>

Wyoming

Mountain-Pacific Quality Health Foundation
 Helena, MT
 Contact: jconnors@mpqhf.org
<http://www.mpqhf.org>

Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands

Ponce School of Medicine
 Ponce, PR
 Contact: jgarcia@psm.edu
<http://www.psm.edu>

Source: [Health Information Technology Extension Program](#)

The goal of the RECs is to provide outreach and support services to at least 100,000 primary care providers within two years. Each REC will provide training and support services to assist providers adopt EHRs, offer information and guidance to help with EHR implementation, and give technical assistance as needed.

The structure of each REC varies, but some commonalities exist. Each REC will draw from its federal grant in budgeted, quarterly allotments to cover administrative and operational expenses. But most of their funding is tied to performance-based payments, with RECs receiving one-third of per capita payment when they sign up providers, one-third when providers' EHR systems are installed, and the final third when providers meet meaningful use.

Some RECs, like the Ohio Health Information Partnership, are offering both free and paid service packages to providers, according to OHIP Chair Amy Andres, who spoke at an eHealth Initiative webinar in May.

OHIP's basic service package is free and includes a health IT practice readiness assessment, help with EHR selection, oversight in EHR implementation, and professional meaningful use guidance.

The enhanced service package, which had not been priced at the time Andres spoke, would also include direct project management, workflow coaching and training, and IT support services after implementation.

Not every state has a REC. New Hampshire and several western states will receive assistance from RECs located in neighboring states.

Opportunities for HIM Professionals

RECs began staffing this spring. To help them ramp up, ARRA earmarked money for workforce programs to, in part, provide trained health IT workers. Those programs, however, will not start until the fall, with the first graduates not expected until spring. The centers also will provide training.

RECs offer an opportunity for HIM professionals, a workforce ready to contribute to REC efforts today.

HIM professionals have a range of skills to apply to planning, implementing, and managing EHR systems. At a minimum, an HIM background offers RECs experience and expertise in:

- How health information is created, maintained, and used throughout a physician office or provider organization

- Guidelines and quality control procedures for coded data
- Privacy and confidentiality practices
- Laws and regulations that impact the maintenance, use, and release of health information

These are critical considerations in properly implementing EHRs and realizing their full potential. The figure at right maps REC services to HIM skills and AHIMA resources.

Core Competencies for EHR Use

AHIMA, in partnership with the American Medical Informatics Association, offers an EHR core competencies matrix tool for use by educational and training programs, healthcare organizations, and professionals.

The tool can:

- Serve as a reference for healthcare workforce job descriptions
- Support the design of in-service and on-the-job training programs for current workforce members who encounter and use the EHR
- Develop new employee orientation programs
- Help in planning professional development activities
- Build specific professional competencies (after review and expansion by various health professions)

See "Health Information Management and Informatics Core Competencies for Individuals Working with Electronic Health Records," available online in the AHIMA Body of Knowledge at www.ahima.org.

Mapping REC Services to HIM Skills



([enlarge view](#))

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