
New Funding Opportunities and Technical Assistance Call

AHRQ will host a technical assistance conference call January 13 from 1-3 p.m. ET to provide an overview of AHRQ's new health information technology funding opportunity announcements and information relevant to the health IT Special Emphasis Notice. These announcements can be found at <http://healthit.ahrq.gov/> under Funding Opportunities.

In September 2008, AHRQ published four new health IT-related funding opportunity announcements and a special emphasis notice. This integrated continuum of health IT-oriented funding opportunities is designed to help achieve measurable and sustained improvements in quality and safety of health care in ambulatory settings and in transitions of care through the development, implementation, and use of health IT.

These funding opportunities are designed to offer applicants opportunities to receive incremental support for the conduct of progressively more complex health IT research projects. The types of funding opportunities, which include training and acquisition of individual research skills, are as follows:

- Career Development and Dissertation Research Grants (K01, K02, K08, R36)
- Small Research Grants (R03)
- Exploratory and Developmental Grants (R21)
- Demonstration Grants (R18)

Highlights of these opportunities are provided below. For further information, please consult the specific announcement.

Career Development and Dissertation Research Grants:

A companion Special Emphasis Notice (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HS-08-014.html>) has been published to support health IT-oriented career development (K01, K02, K08) and research dissertation (R36) grants. This will support development and enhancement of expertise in health IT and related disciplines, including research and evaluation methods, as well as enhancing the capacity of grantees to participate in multi-disciplinary research teams that apply trans-disciplinary perspectives in health IT research.

Small Research Grant to Improve Healthcare Quality through Health IT (R03) FOA:

The R03 FOA (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-08-268.html>) supports different types of small research studies including: 1) small pilot and feasibility or self-contained health IT research projects; 2) secondary data analysis of health IT research; and 3) economic (prospective or retrospective) analyses of health IT implementation. The total costs of the health IT R03 project are limited to \$100,000 for up to two years of funding. For more detailed information, please see the health IT R03 FOA, highlights of each type of health IT R03 study are provided below:

- *Health IT Small Pilot and Feasibility and Self-contained Research Projects* may be either preliminary or preparatory work that will inform future health IT implementation and/or research activities or independent research projects designed to study a well circumscribed challenge in health IT development, implementation or use. The principal investigator/project director for these small research projects is not expected or required to be extensively published or have prior experience in a leadership capacity in the conduct of a research project.
- *Health IT Secondary Data Analysis* investigates additional research questions that are related to, but distinct from, the specific aims of the original data collection. Applicants must identify the source of the data and demonstrate that the proposed analysis is distinct from previously funded activities.
- *Health IT Prospective or Retrospective Economic Analyses* feature an evaluation of financial and non-financial costs and benefits of a companion health IT implementation project. The health IT implementation project need not have been funded by AHRQ. Economic analyses should consider to whom the benefits accrue and address, to the extent possible, both the direct and indirect benefits of implementation and use of health IT.

Exploratory and Developmental Grant to Improve Health Care Quality through Health IT (R21) FOA:

The R21 FOA (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-08-269.html>) will support health IT exploratory and developmental research projects. These R21 health IT research grants will support the conduct of short-term preparatory, pilot, or feasibility studies that are needed to inform future health IT implementation which may include but are not limited to the conduct of a health IT research demonstration grant. The R21 grants are more comprehensive and broader in scope than the small, self-contained health IT research projects supported by the health IT R03 FOA. The total costs of the health IT R21 project are limited to \$300,000 over two years with no more than \$200,000 in total costs in a given year.

Utilizing Health IT to Improve Health Care Quality Grant (R18) FOA:

The R18 FOA (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-08-270.html>) will support demonstration research grants that rigorously study health IT implementation and use to improve the quality, safety, effectiveness and efficiency of health care in ambulatory settings and in the transitions between care settings. The total costs of the health IT R18 project are limited to \$1.2 million over three years with no more than \$500,000 in total costs in a given year.

To learn more about AHRQ's funding announcements, go to <http://www.ahrq.gov/fund/grantix.htm>

