



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **OCHIN Wins over \$4 Million in Federal Grants** **To implement electronic health records in clinics that serve the poor**

Portland, Oregon - Oregon Community Health Information Network (OCHIN) has been awarded 3 federal grants totaling over \$4 million to continue west coast safety net clinic electronic health record implementation. These grants represent 47% of OCHIN's project implementation costs over the next 3 years. The U.S. Department of Human Services, office of Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) has officially notified OCHIN and other grantees of \$31.4 million in three award categories.

- High Impact – A one-year grant to implement electronic health records
- Three Year Electronic Health Record Implementation Grant
- Innovations Grant - A three-year grant for innovations in Health IT

OCHIN will receive funding in all three categories to develop case management functionality, and an integrated mental, dental and primary care health record. This will advance the implementation of Epic's EpicCare system that has been customized and priced to benefit OCHIN's safety-net clinic collaborative. "It's amazing how this high end product can be tailored to fit and is affordable for the safety-net clinic environment. I believe OCHIN is making a real difference in national health care reform by bringing quality technology to the have nots and reducing the healthcare burden for all", said Glenn Kulm, Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency, Director of Administration. OCHIN has demonstrated that they are on the cutting edge of health information technology (HIT) and that clinics that serve low-income individuals will not be left out. "As a nation, we have real work to do improving healthcare for everyone and I applaud HRSA for making this investment in the future", said, John Saultz, MD Chairman of the OCHIN Board and Chairman of Family Medicine at Oregon Health & Science University.

The grants are part of the Bush administration's goal to improve overall health care quality and financial efficiency by assuring that all Americans have an electronic health record by the year 2014.

The timing of these grants could not have been better. Most community-based safety net clinics don't have cash surpluses. This makes updating technology and software (even to gain improved efficiency) difficult given the competing healthcare needs. The HRSA grants will assist with 40 clinic implementations and move every member of the OCHIN collaborative closer to having a fully integrated electronic health record. In time, the system could be further enhanced with hospital, health plan and private clinic integration. "We are optimistic that by working with hospitals, health plans and independent clinics, we can make the integrated and secure health record a reality for the entire healthcare system", said Abigail Sears, OCHIN CEO. "We are honored to receive these HRSA grants that support our mission, *to improve the health of the medically underserved through the best use of information and information technology.*"

#### **About OCHIN**

In 2000, the Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) Community Access Program (CAP), awarded OCHIN a \$2 million grant to begin the process of designing and building a secure, reliable, high-speed, private network for delivering practice management software to community-based clinics. Seven years later, OCHIN has met that challenge and now provides software to safety-net medical, dental, and soon, mental health clinics throughout the west coast. In addition, OCHIN's electronic medical records software is moving clinics to secure and paperless efficiency, along with state-of-the-art centralized billing services and a master patient index. OCHIN uses world-class information system software developed by Epic Systems, Inc. and made affordable through generous grants from Epic and HRSA.

OCHIN has grown from a small \$2 million start-up housed in CareOregon (Oregon's largest non-profit Medicaid-managed care plan) to a \$6 million safety-net clinic collaborative. Today, it is a west coast collaborative with 20 safety-net clinic members, with over 150 individual clinic sites annually serving over 400,000 patients. OCHIN is one of only a few firms in the country that is capturing aggregate healthcare data and statistics of low-income and uninsured populations. These patients are predominately poor (66% below FPL), disproportionately Medicaid/MediCal (35%), and uninsured (48%). High percentages are women and children, and nearly 30% are of Hispanic/Latino descent, while 33% are from rural communities.

**For more information about OCHIN, please go to [www.ochin.org](http://www.ochin.org) or call 503.943.2500.**