



ONC Grant Opportunity

Challenges to Spur Innovation for Market-Ready, User-Friendly
Health Technology Apps for Consumers and Providers

March 24, 2016

ONC Grant - Overview

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 1, 2016

Contact: HHS Press Office
202-690-6343
media@hhs.gov

ONC Launches New Challenges to Spur Innovation for Market-Ready, User-Friendly Health Technology Apps for Consumers and Providers

Two software App challenge awards @ \$175K each:

1. Help Consumers Get and Use their Health Information
2. Improve User-Experience (UX) and Utility for Providers

One “competitive funding opportunity” @ \$275K to support:

“development of an open resource to make it easier for developers to publish their apps and for providers to discover and compare them”

* HHS Press Release @ <http://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2016/03/01/onc-launches-new-challenges-to-spur-innovation-market-ready-user-friendly-health-technology-apps.html>

ONC Grant - Overview

“ONC is committed to encouraging *community-driven, user-focused innovation* ... that can help build a stronger [HIT] ecosystem where consumers and providers can *[access]* the health information they need *when* and *where* they need it most.”¹

“Development of an *app discovery site* that makes it easier for *developers to publish* their apps and for *providers to discover* and *compare* them.”¹

NOTE: **HSPC Board has discussed this opportunity and asked for a proposal & budget.**

¹ <https://www.healthit.gov/techlab/innovation/connecting-accelerating-fhir-app-ecosystem>

Grant Title:

Discovery Infrastructure for Clinical Health IT Apps Cooperative Agreement ¹

Description:

Development of market-ready, platform-agnostic apps that allow consumers to access their own electronic health information and improve the health IT user experience of healthcare providers as they deliver care.

Purpose:

To improve provider's ability to discover health information technology (IT) applications (apps) that integrate with electronic health record systems (**EHRs**), specifically apps that leverage the Health Level 7 (HL7®), Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (**FHIR**®) standard.

Eligibility:

Private nonprofit institution/organizations, public nonprofit institution/organizations, and private or for profit organizations with experience implementing 3rd party software applications (apps) in a health environment.

¹ <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=281872> (ONC grant details)

ONC Grant – Timeline

Key Dates

| Milestone | Date |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| FOA Released | <i>03/01/2016</i> |
| Informational Session | <i>03/16/2016</i> |
| Notice of Intent Due | <i>03/30/2016</i> |
| Applications Due | <i>04/30/2016</i> |
| Anticipated Award Date | <i>05/25/2016</i> |
| Anticipated Project Start Date | <i>06/08/2016</i> |

Project Period: 2016.06.08 to 2017.06.07

NOTE: Notice of Intent not required BUT “strongly encouraged”; Letter is non-binding

ONC Grant – Tasks

Project Tasks:

- Task #1 Market Research – Provider community requirements (20% \$)
- Task #2 Online Resource – App publishing; Provider discovery & comparison (50% \$)
- Task #3 Innovation Sandbox – Users to test open source EHR apps (20% \$)
- Task #4 Sustainability Plan

Proposal Merit Review:

- ✓ Technical Approach & Work Plan (30 points)
- ✓ Knowledge of Health IT (10 points)
- ✓ Organization Capability (20 points)
- ✓ Collaboration and Facilitation (20 points)
- ✓ Innovation, Development of Open Resource (10 points)
- ✓ Budget Narrative / Justification (10 points)

Additional aspects of the “open resource” ...

1. Open Online Resource
2. Innovation Sandbox
3. Enable & conduct market research improving *app discovery* via *infrastructure* & *information transparency*
 - ✓ Comparative factors include system compatibility, terms of use and fee information
4. Leverage *HL7 FHIR* [also cites ONC-funded SMART on FHIR “App Gallery”]
5. Secure & Private Access
6. *Industry-wide* approach to *open, standardized APIs*
 - ✓ Including those identified in the ONC’s 2015 Edition HIT Certification final rule
 - Certification document includes: API description; req. s/w components & configurations, and API Terms of Usage (w/ developer policies & required developer agreements)¹

¹ http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/retrieveECFR?g=p&SID=b617d367f7530fa5d86a685769348359&mc=true&n=pt45.1.170&r=PART&ty=HT ML#se45.1.170_1200