

FY09 Idaho Flex Program Grant: Award Summary

The State Office of Rural Health released guidance for a grant opportunity, funded by the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program, in August 2009. Eligible applicants for the Flex Grant included: designated Critical Access Hospitals (CAH), rural health networks (nonprofit and include at least three CAHs); and rural EMS agencies that directly serve a CAH area. Applicants could request up to \$25,000 and the total amount available during the FFY 2009 funding cycle (ending August 31, 2010) was \$75,000.

Six grant applications from eligible applicants requesting \$148,139 were received. The Flex advisory committee reviewed applications and made the following award determinations:

- Benewah Community Hospital (\$25,000): Expansion of Electronic Medical Records system capabilities to allow better integration with area hospitals, better develop individualized care plans, reduce medication errors and reduce redundant procedures and tests. Partners: North Idaho Rural Health Consortium and Kootenai Medical Center.
- Harms Memorial Hospital (\$24,837): Development of a long-range plan to implement an Electronic Medical Records system and implementation of a basic Wide Area Network to electronically connect partner sites. Partners: Speech Therapy Services, LLC and Rockland Pharmacy.
- Syringa Hospital and Clinics (\$23,392): Utilization of a telemedicine robot program to increase access to health care services; development of electronic prescribing connectivity for use of Electronic Health Records and in preparation for eventual telepharmacy. Partners: Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center and Irwin Drug.