



November 24, 2009 - Topic: Federal Stimulus Funding

HHS To Award \$80M To Support, Strengthen Health IT Work Force

During a telephone press conference on Tuesday morning, National Coordinator for Health IT David Blumenthal **announced that HHS** has allocated \$80 million in grants to help address an estimated shortage of 50,000 health IT workers, *Modern Healthcare* reports (Conn, *Modern Healthcare*, 11/24).

The funding includes \$70 million to create community college health IT training programs and \$10 million to develop educational materials to support those programs, Blumenthal said.

According to Blumenthal, the grants will establish six-month, intensive, non-degree training programs aimed at individuals with some background in health care or IT. Participating community colleges will coordinate their efforts through five regional consortia (Manos, *Healthcare IT News*, 11/24). The new programs are expected to train 10,000 health IT workers annually (*Modern Healthcare*, 11/24).

The funding earmarked for health IT training was authorized by the federal stimulus package.

Blumenthal said more details on the training programs will be released in the next several weeks (*Healthcare IT News*, 11/24).

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