



# HealthBridge Tri-State Regional Extension Center

## OVERVIEW

HealthBridge and a network of partners will establish a Tri-State Regional Extension Center (Tri-State REC) for Southwest Ohio, Northern Kentucky, and Southeastern Indiana. The Tri-State REC will pursue a comprehensive strategy to support electronic health records (EHR) adoption, health information exchange (HIE), process redesign, local workforce support and quality improvement to assist health care providers in its service area to implement and meaningfully use technology and qualify for incentive payments from the federal government.

### The Tri-State REC will offer:

- **Resources on EHR Implementation and Meaningful Use** – The Tri-State REC will provide basic education to all health care providers about health information technology (HIT), electronic health records (EHRs), health information exchange (HIE) and meaningful use of technology. Resources will be available through:
  - online and print resources;
  - periodic in-person meetings, conferences and
  - webinars; and
  - special interest intensive sessions and collaboratives
- **Group Purchased EHRs and Technology Solutions** –The Tri-State REC will have group purchased EHR options at steeply discounted rates for practices. The Tri-State REC will also provide connectivity for health information exchange (HIE) and a range of hosted, ASP solutions for practices.
- **EHR Implementation Consulting** – The Tri-State REC will work with qualified practices and health centers on planning, purchasing and implementing an EHR. While the REC cannot pay for EHR technology, it will have a variety of tools and methods to make EHR and HIE implementation easier.
- **Intensive Quality Improvement & Collaboration** – The Tri-State REC will provide coaching, peer networking and collaboration related to quality improvement, practice redesign assistance, and supplemental HIE services that practices need to meet meaningful use



## HealthBridge Tri-State Regional Extension Center Service Area

State	Targeted Counties for REC
<b>Ohio</b> (11 counties)	Adams, Brown, Butler, Clinton, Clermont, Greene, Hamilton, Highland and Warren; Clark and Champaign
<b>Kentucky</b> (37 counties)	Boone, Campbell, Kenton, Grant, Pendleton, Gallatin; Greenup, Carter, Elliott, Morgan, Magoffin, Lewis, Rowan, Menifee, Wolfe, Mason, Fleming, Bath, Montgomery, Bracken, Robertson, Nicholas, Lawrence, Boyd; Fayette, Bourbon, Clark, Harrison, Madison, Jessamine, Woodford, Scott, Franklin, Owen, Mercer, Boyle, Garrard
<b>Indiana</b> (19 counties)	Dearborn, Ohio, Ripley, Franklin, Switzerland, Brown, Daviess, Crawford, Dubois, Greene, Lawrence, Martin, Monroe, Orange, Owen, Washington, Jackson, Jennings, Jefferson



### Partner Organizations:

- HealthBridge
- HealthLINC HIE, Bloomington, IN
- Collaborating Communities HIE, Springfield, OH
- Northeast Kentucky RHIO, Morehead, KY
- The University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY
- The University of Cincinnati
- Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights, KY
- Morehead State University, Morehead, KY
- Ohio KePRO
- Healthcare Excel

### Supporting Organizations

- Ohio Health Information Partnership
- Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services
- Indiana Health Information Technology Inc.

### Federal Program Requirements:

- The Regional Extension Centers focus their technical assistance on two groups: 1) ***individual and small group primary care practices*** (with 10 or fewer physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners with prescriptive privileges) and 2) ***clinicians in public and critical access hospitals, community health centers, and in other settings that predominantly serve uninsured, underinsured, and medically underserved populations.***
- The Regional Extension Centers are required to help health care providers to:
  - Select a certified EHR product that offers best value for providers' needs;
  - Achieve effective implementation of a certified EHR product;
  - Observe and comply with applicable legal, regulatory, professional and ethical requirements to protect the integrity, privacy and security of patients' health information; and
  - Assist with meaningful use of certified technology.

### About HealthBridge

HealthBridge is one of the nation's largest and most financially successful health information exchange organizations. HealthBridge is a not-for-profit corporation founded in 1997 as a community effort to enhance the ability to share health information electronically in the Greater Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky tri-state area.

Due to HealthBridge and its partners' efforts, the Greater Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky region has become the most advanced region in the country for using electronic health information and connectivity to improve the quality and efficiency of health care. Each month millions of clinical lab tests, radiology reports, and other results are transmitted to authorized physicians through HealthBridge's secure electronic network, more than nearly any other community health information exchange in the country. For more information about HealthBridge, see [www.healthbridge.org](http://www.healthbridge.org).

<b>Tri-State Regional Extension Center Activities</b>		
<b>1. Education and Outreach to Providers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roadmap to Meaningful Use for practices</li> <li>Web-based and on-site resources, communications and outreach to practices</li> <li>Meaningful Use Conferences and Webinars</li> <li>Peer Learning Networks for Enrolled practices</li> </ul>	<b>2. National Learning Consortium</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participation in National Learning Network activities</li> <li>Coordination with other REC entities in same state</li> <li>Use of National Health Information Technology Research Center (HITRC) resources</li> </ul>	<b>3. Vendor Selection and Purchasing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Master EHR requirements template</li> <li>Group purchasing initiative for hardware, EHR software and technical services</li> </ul>
<b>4. Implementation and Project Management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>REC Steering Committee and Work Groups</li> <li>REC Master Documents – contracts, RFPs, work plans</li> <li>Consultant assigned to practices</li> <li>Practice readiness assessment</li> <li>Meaningful Use Implementation Team with Physician Champion and Administrative Lead</li> <li>Meaningful Use Work Plan</li> </ul>	<b>5. Practice and Workflow Redesign</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Practice workflow analysis and recommendations</li> <li>EHR requirements recommendations</li> <li>Quality improvement, measurement and reporting assistance</li> </ul>	<b>6. Interoperability and HIE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Combine EHR adoption with HIE to get to meaningful use</li> <li>Trouble shooting for practices on elements needed for meaningful use</li> </ul>
<b>7. Privacy and Security</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>REC consultants and staff trained in latest requirements</li> <li>Training for practices in privacy and security in an electronic environment</li> </ul>	<b>8. Progress Toward Meaningful Use</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communications and outreach</li> <li>Meaningful Use Gap Analysis of Current EHRs</li> <li>Templates, checklists and other resources</li> <li>Intensive Quality Improvement Pilot</li> </ul>	<b>9. Workforce Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Curriculum development initiatives</li> <li>Internships and service learning opportunities for students</li> <li>University personnel, students involvement in REC activities</li> </ul>

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

- (513) 469-7222
- [REC@healthbridge.org](mailto:REC@healthbridge.org)
- [www.healthbridge.org](http://www.healthbridge.org)