Health Care at Your Fingertips: Funding mHealth Initiatives

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Chris previously worked as a legislative aide for the New York State Assembly Committee on Health. He has also served in a project management capacity, including the oversight of HIT implementations, for a variety of healthcare organizations ranging from healthcare clinics to major academic medical centers.
AGENDA

✓ Define mHealth
✓ Review federal funding priorities for health sector in context of mHealth
✓ Examples of mHealth projects funded via grant programs
✓ Grant programs
  ✓ Emergency preparedness angle
  ✓ Education/training angle
  ✓ Research/Demonstration grants for mHealth
  ✓ Direct health IT funding
  ✓ Other programs that can fund mHealth
✓ Tips & Recommendations
✓ Q&A
Defining mHealth

What characterizes a mhealth initiative?
Defining mHealth

mHealth = Mobile Health

• Involves practice of medicine and public health supported by mobile communication devices:

  ✓ Mobile phones
  ✓ Tablets
  ✓ Notebooks
  ✓ PDAs
Defining mHealth

- mHealth involves the use of mobile devices for the following types of activities:
  - collecting community and clinical health data;
  - delivery of healthcare information to practitioners, researchers, and patients;
  - real-time monitoring of patient vital signs; and
  - direct provision of care

- May involve several components:
  - Electronic health records
  - Health information exchange
  - Telemedicine
Federal Funding Priorities & mHealth

What are federal funding priorities in health sector and how does mHealth fit?
mHealth & Federal Funding Priorities

• Health Information Technology
  ✓ EHRs
  ✓ HIEs
  ✓ Telehealth

• Health Professional Education & Training
  ✓ Utilization of telehealth/mhealth equipment to overcome health professional shortages
  ✓ Integrating new technologies/delivery mechanisms into education and training programs

• Emergency Preparedness/Disaster Recovery
  ✓ Utilization of mobile devices to deliver health care in times of natural/man-made disasters and terrorist events
mHealth & Federal Funding Priorities

• Access & Eliminating Disparities
  ✓ Utilizing mHealth for chronic disease management
  ✓ Utilizing mHealth to ensure vulnerable populations adhere to medication regimens and treatment plans

• Section 330 Funding
  ✓ Funding targeted at delivering health care to underserved populations and provided to federally qualified health centers.
  ✓ Capacity-building funds provided directly to these organizations to explore capital projects and health IT acquisition
mHealth & Federal Funding Priorities

• Ryan White HIV/AIDS & Similar Funding
  ✓ Money targeted at delivering necessary health care services to HIV/AIDS patients
  ✓ Capacity-building funds available on an annual basis
  ✓ Utilization of mHealth technology to ensure adherence to strict medication regimens
  ✓ Similar funding for other vulnerable groups

• Patient Safety, Quality Improvement, etc...
  ✓ Utilization of mHealth technology to monitor falls in institutional and home-based settings
  ✓ Utilization of mHealth technology to capture and report specific information for quality improvement efforts.
Overview: Project Examples

• Telecommunications between hospitals and paramedics
  • Pre-triage in EMS vehicle or at point of EMS pick-up
  • Send information to hospital to prepare for patient arrival
  • The unit can be fixed in vehicle or mobile so that it can be used in patient home
  • Even if unit is fixed in vehicle, the ambulance (site) is not confined to fix location. Still mobile telehealth project.

• Disease management program for Diabetes
  • CHF patients are seen in their homes, with vitals, blood sugar and other medical data taken by tech that runs mobile telehealth unit. Unit allows data to be sent to medical providers for direct monitoring, input into electronic record for subsequent review or direct feedback from provider on data sent and direct observation through video conferencing.
  • Mobile unit allows podiatrist consult upon visual inspection of a foot wound.
Funding Opportunities

What specific grant programs support mHealth?
Emergency Preparedness Angle

- Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP)
  - $360 million pass through program
- UASI: Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP)
  - Up to $75,000 per project
- Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS)
  - 40 million for 124 municipal areas
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)
  - 614 million per year for 6 years
Education & Training Angle

• Nurse Education Practice Quality and Retention (NEPQR) ✓$750,000 over 3 years

• Advanced Nursing Education ✓$750,000 over 3 years

• Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Infrastructure Development Awards ✓$31 million

• Health Careers Opportunities Program (HCOP) ✓$750,000 over 3 years

• H-1B Technical Skills Training Grant ✓$340 million
Research, Demononstration & Dissemination Grants for mHealth

- mHealth Tools to Promote Effective Patient-Provider Communication, Adherence to Treatment and Self Management of Chronic Diseases In Underserved Populations (R01) ✓$2.5 million over 5 years

- AHRQ Health Services Research Demonstration and Dissemination Grants (R18) ✓$2.5 million over 5 years

- Utilizing Health Information Technology (IT) to Improve Health Care Quality (R18)
  ✓$1.2 million over 3 years
Health IT Funding

• Distance Learning & Telemedicine Program (DLT)
  ✓$500,000 per project

• Telehealth Network Grant Program (TNGP)
  ✓$735,000 over 3 years

• Grants to Expand Care Coordination through the Use of Health Information Technology in Targeted Areas of Need (TCE-Health IT) ✓$840,000 over 3 years

• High Impact Electronic Health Record Implementation ✓Up to $735,000 over 3 years
Other Programs

• Health Care Innovation Challenge
  ✓ Up to $30 million per project

• School-Based Health Centers Capital Program (SBHCC) ✓ $500,000 per project

• Patient Navigator Outreach and Chronic Disease Prevention Program ✓ $1.2 million over 3 years

• Community Facilities Grant Program
  ✓ Grants can fund up to 75% of project costs
  ✓ Loans also available through program
Other Programs

- Prevention & Public Health Fund
  “...to provide for expanded and sustained national investment in prevention and public health programs to improve health and help restrain the rate of growth in private and public sector health care costs.”
- Community Transformation Grants
- Grants to public health department for prevention efforts and management of chronic diseases.

✓ $15 billion over 10 years
Tips & Recommendations

How can you position a successful mHealth project into a grants proposal?
Writing mHealth Technology into Proposal

• Many grant programs do not allow specification of a technology vendor when applying for funding, even if it’s an IT grant program*

• Make sure you are aware of the procurement procedures for your organization, and whether they align with grant specifications (bid process, etc.)

• When describing equipment, make sure to specify how the functionality will aid in the project without necessarily pointing to a specific product/vendor

*There are exceptions to this, however, with programs that require specification of a vendor/equipment and how they already have/will be implemented in the project.
Tips & Suggestions

• Connect mHealth software/hardware/network needs with the goals of the grant program (federal health sector funding priorities)

• Don’t rely on mHealth technology being your sole source of innovation
  • What about workflow/process innovation?
  • How can you leverage tech in an innovative way?

• Familiarize yourself with guidance document and be aware of any equipment/software caps

• Engage your congressional representatives to send letters to administering agency supporting the use of federal funds for your projects
QUESTIONS?
Post-Webinar Questions? g08375@att.com

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