



HEALTH INFORMATION CAREERS

Certificate Programs

The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act seeks to improve American health care delivery and patient care through an unprecedented investment in health information technology. The provisions of the HITECH Act are specifically designed to work together to provide the necessary assistance and technical support to providers, enable coordination and alignment within and among states, establish connectivity to the public health community in case of emergencies, and assure the workforce is properly trained and equipped to be meaningful users of EHRs. Combined, these programs build the foundation for every American to benefit from an electronic health record, as part of a modernized, interconnected, and vastly improved system of care delivery.

Under this Act several funded opportunities will be available:

Community College Consortia to Educate Health Information Technology Professionals Program: A grant program that seeks to rapidly create health IT education and training programs at Community Colleges or expand existing programs. Community Colleges funded under this initiative will establish intensive, non-degree training programs that can be completed in six months or less. This is one component of the Health IT Workforce Program.

Program of Assistance for University-Based Training: A grant program to rapidly increase the availability of individuals qualified to serve in specific health information technology professional roles requiring university-level training. This is one component of the Health IT Workforce Program.

Competency Examination for Individuals Completing Non-Degree Training Programs: A grant program to provide \$6 million in grants to an institution of higher education (or consortia thereof) to support the development and initial administration of a set of health IT competency examinations. This is one component of the Health IT Workforce Program.

The legislation has funded these short term (six months or less) job training programs in one of six role based areas:

- Implementation Support Specialist
- Implementation Manager
- Practice workflow and implementation redesign specialist
- Clinician consultant
- Technical software support staff
- Trainer

These programs are best suited for someone already employed in the healthcare or information technology fields and who wants to acquire special job skills related to implementation and

management of electronic health records in a variety of healthcare settings. These newly funded programs will begin in September 2010.

For more information see the following website:

http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=1487&parentname=CommunityPage&parentid=7&mode=2&in_hi_userid=10741&cache