

American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-5)

Health Information Technology Infrastructure

President Obama signed the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) on February 17 (P.L. 111-5). ARRA allocates a total of \$787.2 billion to states and federal agencies through a variety of spending and revenue measures, which are designed to stimulate the economy. Approximately \$19 billion of this total is targeted for investments in health care information technology infrastructure. The following provides an outline of health infrastructure funds in ARRA, including a description of the programs, potential recipients of funds, and how interested parties may pursue funding allocated in the Act.

Department of Health & Human Services – Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology: \$19 billion

The Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) will distribute funds to states or state-designated entities for the purpose of adopting interoperable electronic health information technology, according to nationally recognized standards. States and/or their designated entities must submit a proposal to ONC.

Potential Recipients: State and local governments; state-designated entities; not-for-profit or public hospitals.

How to Access the Funds: Interested parties should submit a plan for the adoption of interoperable health information technology to ONC to apply for funding. Plans must explain how they serve the public interest, they must be consistent with the strategic plan developed by ONC, and they must include a description of how the recipient will utilize the funds.

For additional information about the ARRA, visit www.klgates.com/practices/stimulus.