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\$47 Million in CMS EHR Incentive Payments to Indian Country

Providers and hospitals signed up with the NIHB REC.

WASHINGTON, DC—August 7, 2013—According to a recent report by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the National Indian Health Board’s (NIHB) Regional Extension Center contributed to producing \$47 million in CMS Electronic Health Records (EHR) incentive payments to Indian Country.

“This is a great success for NIHB’s Regional Extension Center and our partnerships with CMS and the Indian Health Service. It’s a clear indication that NIHB REC is providing quality support services to assist Primary Care Providers in adopting Electronic Health Records to become meaningful users of EHRs,” said NIHB Chairperson Cathy Abramson.

NIHB established one of 62 Health Information Technology (HITECH) Regional Extension Centers (REC) in the country funded by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC). Most RECs serve a single state. The NIHB REC, however, is the only national REC serving tribal communities in 35 states, representing 566 federally-recognized tribes.

“NIHB’s collaboration with the Area Indian Health Boards and Regional Tribal Health Organizations to encourage more providers at IHS and tribal health facilities is an important component in making the EHR effort a staple for providing higher quality and safer care for patients,” Chairperson Abramson added.

Through the availability of ONC funds, the NIHB REC teams provide HITECH services to eligible Primary Care Providers and hospitals as they implement and demonstrate meaningful use of certified EHR technology.

“We are placed with the collective responsibility and opportunity to establish and support a national HITECH Center to serve the health IT needs and interests of Native communities across the country,” REC Director Jason Heinecke said.

To learn more about NIHB REC, visit the website: www.nihb.org/hitech

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