



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
FOR
STATEWIDE HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE (HIE) FEASIBILITY**

**RFI # 34301-40124
APRIL 1, 2024**

1. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

The State of Tennessee, Department of Health issues this Request for Information (“RFI”) for the purpose of gathering information on development and implementation of a feasibility study regarding implementation of a Statewide Health Information Exchange (HIE) in Tennessee. We appreciate your input and participation in this process.

Specifically, this work would include assessment and report of:

- 1) Success and failure criteria based on lessons learned from HIEs across the country, including TN HIEs past and present (e.g., CareSpark, HIP-TN HIE, etHIN), including but limited to:
 - a. HIE models including scope and services supported,
 - b. Governance and partner engagement models,
 - c. Cost, funding, and sustainability models,
 - d. Technology and resource models,
- 2) Legal, security, and policy requirements and proposed changes needed to support a successful implementation complying with the security rules of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), federal Health IT policies, and state laws,
- 3) Requirements to support and engage in National Health IT data exchange initiatives (i.e. Trust Exchange Framework and Common Agreement)
- 4) Findings and HIE recommendation given the current and future TN environment.

The scope of this work should include the current state of HIEs in Tennessee, lessons learned from HIEs across the country, HIE activities of payer plans and other State Departments

(TennCare) with respect to the establishment of a HIE Network, any availability of federal or state funds, and concludes with specific recommendations.

2. BACKGROUND:

The 21st Century Cures Act Final rule describes a Health Information Exchange (HIE) as an individual or entity that determines, controls, or has the discretion to administer any requirement, policy, or agreement that permits, enables, or requires the use of any technology or services for access, exchange, or use of electronic health information. In 2009, based on an assessment conducted by TennCare's Office of eHealth, the State embarked upon a "network of networks" approach to expand and enhance the exchange of health information. In this approach, a State-level entity would serve as a "hub" to provide core technical services (e.g., master provider and patient directories, content management) to facilitate access to State government resources, exchange information across regional Health Information Exchanges (HIE) and serve as a gateway to national-level services via the eHealth Exchange. In 2009, HIPTN was formed and contracted by the state to build the infrastructure that would connect several regional health information organizations (RHIOs) already performing HIE activities in Tennessee.

Informed by the needs and priorities of stakeholders, the statewide HIE strategy was to improve access to health information by providing services and infrastructure for the secure electronic exchange and use of health information. Tennessee's statewide HIE landscape changed when three of the State's four HIEs halted operations due to vendor capacity and sustainability issues. Three years after the organization was formed to orchestrate statewide health information exchange (HIE) efforts, the HIPTN board voted on June 15, 2012, after meeting with state officials to begin winding down operations.

The TDH Office of Informatics and Analytics (OIA) is seeking an assessment of the feasibility and recommendations towards implementation of a statewide HIE in TN, based on lessons learned from successful and unsuccessful HIEs in TN and across the country.

3. COMMUNICATIONS:

3.1. Please submit your response and any questions to this RFI to:

Melissa Painter, Competitive Procurement Coordinator
 Procurement Management Office
 Division of Administrative Services
 Andrew Johnson Tower, 5th Floor
 710 James Robertson Parkway
 Nashville, TN 37243
 Phone: (615) 741-0285
 Cell: (615) 961-2482
Melissa.Painter@tn.gov

3.2. Please reference RFI # 34301-40124 with all communications to this RFI.

4. RFI SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

EVENT		TIME (Central Time Zone)	DATE (all dates are State business days)
1.	RFI Issued		April 1, 2024

2.	Written "Questions & Comments" Deadline	2:00 p.m.	April 10, 2024
3.	State Response to Written "Questions & Comments"		April 15, 2024
4.	RFI Response Deadline		April 22, 2024

5. GENERAL INFORMATION:

- 5.1. Please note that responding to this RFI is not a prerequisite for responding to any future solicitations related to this project and a response to this RFI will not create any contract rights. Responses to this RFI will become property of the State.
- 5.2. The information gathered during this RFI is part of an ongoing procurement. In order to prevent an unfair advantage among potential respondents, the RFI responses will not be available until after the completion of evaluation of any responses, proposals, or bids resulting from a Request for Qualifications, Request for Proposals, Invitation to Bid or other procurement method. In the event that the state chooses not to go further in the procurement process and responses are never evaluated, the responses to the procurement including the responses to the RFI, will be considered confidential by the State.
- 5.3. The State will not pay for any costs associated with responding to this RFI.

6. INFORMATIONAL FORMS:

The State is requesting the following information from all interested parties. Please fill out the following forms:

RFI #34301-40124

TECHNICAL INFORMATIONAL FORM

1. RESPONDENT LEGAL ENTITY NAME:

2. RESPONDENT CONTACT PERSON:

Name, Title:

Address:

Phone Number:

Email:

3. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EXPERIENCE PROVIDING SIMILAR SCOPE OF SERVICES/PRODUCTS

- a. Briefly describe experience and subject matter expertise with regards to statewide or regional Health Information Network or Health Information Exchange.
- b. Describe your experience working in or with governmental public health.
- c. Describe your experience designing and implementing large scale Health Information Technology related assessments and studies, and development and presentation of associated findings and recommendations, including those relating to HIEs.
- d. Assessment Design
 - i. Describe how you would engage and gather input from the requesting agency and other governmental agencies, existing regional HIEs in TN, other existing statewide HIEs, private provider exchanges, internal and external stakeholders.
 - ii. Describe how you would assess and categorize failure and success criteria for implementation of a statewide HIE in TN, including but not limited to:
 1. HIE models including scope and services supported,
 2. Governance and partner engagement models,
 3. Cost, funding, and sustainability models,
 4. Technology and resource models
 - iii. Describe how you would assess Legal, security, and policy requirements and proposed changes needed to support a successful implementation complying with the security rules of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), federal Health IT policies, and state laws.
 - iv. Describe how you would assess and make recommendations regarding Requirements to support and engage in National Health IT data exchange initiatives (i.e. Trust Exchange Framework and Common Agreement)
 - v. Describe your approach to documenting and presenting assessment findings and HIE recommendations.

- vi. Describe what state and non-state resources (including staff, staff time, office space if on site, and documentation) would be required to assist with assessment design. Describe what other organizations you may engage to assist with either the assessment or generation of recommendations.
- vii. Describe your methodology for a feasibility assessment with design implications.
- viii. Describe what tool or tools you would use for assessment administration.
- ix. Describe what supporting documentation would be developed.
- e. Describe health information exchange use cases and workflow assessments.
 - i. Identify and prioritize use cases for statewide health information exchange.
 - ii. Develop benchmark metrics for each use case.
 - iii. Identify workflows specific to statewide HIE operations.
 - iv. Assess external workflows to enable statewide HIE utilization.
 - v. Identify potential gaps in workflow between disparate EHR system(s) and the statewide HIE.
 - vi. Describe the benefits to participating providers, including hospitals, ambulatory practices, emergency rooms, pharmacies, long term care facilities, public health, other state departmental agencies, and etc.
 - vii. Assess the potential support a statewide HIE could provide to Tennessee providers participating in federal programs including but limited to 21st Century Cures Act including reducing information blocking, the Office of National Coordinator for Health IT's (ONC) Health Data, Technology, and Interoperability: Certification Program Updates, Algorithm Transparency, Information Sharing (HTI-1) Final Rule, and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS).

COST INFORMATIONAL FORM

1. Describe what pricing units you typically utilize for similar services or goods (e.g., per hour, each, etc.):
2. Describe the typical price range for similar services or goods
 - a. Provide estimated price range including operational staff, executive staff, and time and effort to be fully operational.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. Please provide input on alternative approaches or additional things to consider that might benefit the State: