



## The Nation's Leading Support System for RHIOs and HIEs

The Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) RHIO Federation connects, provides real-world tools, advocacy support and education for organizations involved in regional healthcare information organizations (RHIOs) and health information exchanges (HIE).

The HIMSS RHIO Federation supports the goals and architecture of the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) **Framework for Strategic Action**. This Framework combines regional and community-based health information networks to achieve the goal of interconnectivity of patient care and healthcare information systems. Once healthcare connectivity is achieved, quality of care, safety and efficiency will be improved.

Demonstrating the importance of RHIOs, HHS has pledged \$139 million over five years to provide direct assistance to several pilot RHIOs and to support other related activities.

**How to Join:** If you're a verified RHIO and/or HIE initiative, there is no fee or obligation to become a HIMSS RHIO Federation member. Current HIMSS corporate and individual members can participate as a benefit of their membership. Feel free to contact David Clark (dclark@himss.org) to get your RHIO or HIE involved today.

*"The HIMSS RHIO Federation is designed to assist in the development of resources for RHIOs and HIEs: tools, best practices, networking and education. Through these efforts, our main goal is to bring together all the necessary players and resources to ensure that RHIOs bring value and improved patient care to the American healthcare system."*

**Steve Lieber, HIMSS President & CEO**

### BENEFITS OF HIMSS RHIO FEDERATION

- **HIMSS National Network:** Provides local and national support through HIMSS' national network of 45 Chapters, 17,000+ individual members and 275+ corporate members. Each of HIMSS Chapters will have a RHIO Federation Chapter Liaison who will participate in local RHIO/HIE activities.
- **Educational & Outreach Programs:** Offers educational programs and materials on how RHIOs and HIEs can be successfully developed and managed – topics include chain of trust, business rules and harmonization.
- **RHIO Advocacy:** Explain and provide a context for federal, state and local government initiatives that impact RHIOs and HIEs. The RHIO Federation gives the industry a collective voice for developing legislation that supports the industry at large. The Federation provides a voice on Capitol Hill for its members and will utilize its Chapter program to foster collaboration at the state and local level.
- **RHIO Brief:** The Federation keeps the healthcare industry up-to-date on topics and strategies related to the development and maintenance of RHIOs and HIEs.
- **RHIO Inventory:** The Federation tracks RHIO and HIE initiatives throughout the county and provides updates on a quarterly basis. Additionally, the Federation provides case studies, technology reviews, best practices and ROI reports from the field to ensure lessons learned are shared throughout the industry.
- **RHIO Federation Tools:** The HIMSS RHIO Federation will undertake several projects designed to provide real-world tools for RHIO professionals. Topics include security, operating rules, best practices and HIPAA compliance.
- **Access to Industry Experts:** Gain insight on how to successfully develop a RHIO or HIE. Federation members will be able to submit RHIO technology and business questions to the Federation's expert panel for comment.

To join the HIMSS RHIO Federation, or for more information, please contact:

David Clark, HIMSS Director of Integration and Interoperability  
Phone: (703) 837-9816 Email: dclark@himss.org