

**IDAHO MEDICAID ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS INCENTIVE PROGRAM (EHR): AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT**  
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Question	Answer
<p><b>Why is there such a focus on the adoption and meaningful use of electronic health records (EHRs)?</b></p>	<p>The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) encourages the adoption and use of certified EHR technology by the states because it's believed that this will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce medical errors</li> <li>• Improve health care outcomes</li> <li>• Ensure quality</li> <li>• Reduce health care costs</li> </ul> <p>The EHR technology is not an end in itself; it's the means to achieve the goals.</p>
<p><b>What Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) funding is available under ARRA?</b></p>	<p>100% federal financial participation (FFP) incentive funds to providers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligible professionals – up to a maximum of \$63,750 over a six year period – the payments are an incentive for the adoption and meaningful use of EHRs (under Medicare the maximum is \$44,000 over a five year period).</li> <li>• Hospitals – amounts to be determined through a formula.</li> </ul> <p>90% FFP administrative funds to Medicaid state agencies for three purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To administer the incentive payments.</li> <li>• To conduct oversight of the incentive program including tracking meaningful use attestations and reporting mechanisms.</li> <li>• To pursue initiatives to encourage the adoption of EHR technology to promote healthcare quality and exchange data.</li> </ul>