

Sec. E.306 18 V.S.A. § 9351 is amended to read:

§ 9351. HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PLAN

(a) The Secretary of Administration or designee shall be responsible for the overall coordination of Vermont's statewide Health Information Technology Plan. The Plan shall be revised annually, and updated comprehensively every five years to create provide a strategic vision for clinical health information technology. The Secretary or designee shall administer ~~and update~~ the Plan as needed, which shall include the implementation of an integrated electronic health information infrastructure for the sharing of electronic health information among health care facilities, health care professionals, public and private payers, and patients. The Plan shall include standards and protocols designed to promote patient education, patient privacy, physician best practices, electronic connectivity to health care data, and, overall, a more efficient and less costly means of delivering quality health care in Vermont.

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(c) The Secretary of Administration or designee shall ~~may~~ update the plan annually Plan as needed to reflect emerging technologies, the State's changing needs, and such other areas as the Secretary or designee deems appropriate. The Secretary or designee shall solicit recommendations from Vermont Information Technology Leaders, Inc. (VITL) and other entities in order to update the Health Information Technology Plan pursuant to this section, including applicable standards, protocols, and pilot programs, and may enter into a contract or grant agreement with VITL or other entities to update some or all of the Plan. Upon approval by the Secretary, the updated Plan shall be distributed to the Commissioner of Information and Innovation; the Commissioner of Financial Regulation; the Commissioner of Vermont Health Access; the Secretary of Human Services; the Commissioner of Health; the Commissioner of Mental Health; the Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living; the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare; the House Committee on Health Care; affected parties; and interested stakeholders. Unless major modifications are required, the Secretary may present updated information about the Plan to the Green Mountain Care Board and legislative committees of jurisdiction in lieu of creating a written report.

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~~(f) Qualified applicants may seek grants to invest in the infrastructure necessary to allow for and promote the electronic exchange and use of health information from federal agencies, including the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Federal Communications Commission. The Secretary of Administration or designee shall require applicants for grants authorized pursuant to Section 13301 of Title~~

~~XXX of Division A of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Public Law 111-5, to submit the application for State review pursuant to the process established in federal Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs. Grant applications shall be consistent with the goals outlined in the strategic plan developed by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology and the statewide Health Information Technology Plan. [Repealed.]~~