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**Statement by
SECRETARY THOMAS W. ARNOLD
Regarding Federal Funding Awarded to Florida Regional Extension
Centers**

The growth of health information exchange and the improvement in health information technology has the potential to significantly improve health care quality and reduce duplication. The Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) congratulates the four Florida regional extension centers that have been awarded federal funding to promote health information exchange: University of Central Florida, Orlando; Community Health Centers Alliance, Inc., St. Petersburg; Health Choice Network, Miami; and the University of South Florida, Tampa.

“The Agency has been hosting various public meetings and workshops and is collaborating with multiple stakeholders to further develop health information exchange in Florida as a part of our Health Information Exchange Cooperative Agreement with the Federal Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology.

“With more than \$33 million awarded to the regional extension centers this week, we are confident they will be key partners with the Agency in promoting electronic health record adoption and health information exchange in Florida. This funding will allow the regional extension centers to serve as local resources for technical assistance and guidance and provide best practices for health care providers as they begin using electronic health records.

“Electronic health records are a key factor in helping health care providers enhance the coordination and quality of care for their patients. By helping providers across the state with the implementation of electronic health records, we can improve the quality of care provided to Floridians.”

For more information on the federal funding awarded to Florida’s regional extension centers, please click [here](#).

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The Agency for Health Care Administration is committed to better health care for all Floridians. AHCA administers Florida’s Medicaid program, licenses and regulates more than 41,000 health care facilities and 43 health maintenance organizations, and publishes health care data and statistics on www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov. For more information, please visit www.ahca.myflorida.com.

