FCC Rural Healthcare Pilot Program

Texas Health Information Network Collaboration

Internet2 Spring Meeting
15 Oct 2008
Founding Participants

- CHRISTUS Health System
- East Texas Area Health Education Center
- Rural & Community Health Institute
- TeleCommunity Resource Center
- Texas A&M Health Science Center (SEGP)
- Texas A&M University (I2)
- Texas Organization for Rural and Community Hospitals
- University of Texas Medical Branch (SEGP)
Funding Recipients

• 250+ rural sites including
  • Rural Hospitals
  • Rural Clinics
  • Rural PA’s
  • Rural Hospital Associations
  • Rural Clinic groups

• In
  – 165 counties
  – All 17 Texas LATAs
  – 208 ZIP Codes
Connectivity Targets for Rural Recipients

- Each other
- 11 Health Science Centers in Texas
- Regional secondary and tertiary facilities
- Urban speciality hospitals
- Texas Medical Center (Houston)
- County, regional, and State Public Health offices
- National research and education via I2 and NLR
- CDC (via I2 someday)
Status

- Planning RFP
  - In final cleanup

- Matching Funds
  - Startup “lump”
  - Long-term
    - From participants

- Revised Sustainability Plan
  - Under consideration
THINC Overview

- $11 million awarded
- 501c3 based organization
- Founding participants are not necessarily recipients of the funding
- 3 year primary funding being spent over 5 years
- Reworking long term sustaining plan
- Long term operational plan
- Network design RFP ready to issue
- Will subcontract NOC
THINC Overview

• Philosophy of proposal
  – Building the last mile when possible
  – Connecting existing rural networks
  – Layer 3 support
  – Use LEARN as connector to I2/NLR
  – Use I2/NLR as national transport
  – Facilitate applications and data sharing
  – Work with Regional Healthcare Information Organizations (RHIOs)
  – Technology transfer