Budget Narrative/Justification for Contractual Expenditures – Planning

As early as possible in year one, the OHIT will contract with a vendor or vendors to assist the State in developing its Strategic and Operational plan for a state-level HIE, pursuant to its Cooperative Agreement. The planning work is anticipated to be broken into two main areas of responsibility: a lead planning vendor for the governance, finance, business and technical operations and legal/policy domains; and technical planning vendor for the technical infrastructure domain. The projected total contractual expenditures for the planning vendor(s) are $5,700,000, which will occur during year one.

The lead strategic planning vendor will work under the direction of OHIT staff and ensure the close coordination of the technical infrastructure planning with that of the other four domains. The strategic planning vendor scope of work includes: assisting the state in convening all stakeholder groups and devising a means of incorporating their input into the State Strategic and Operational Plan; elicit the key concerns and core service needs of all expected participants in the state-level HIE and make recommendations for how to address them; investigate current HIE practices in other states and at the federal level; assess their strengths and weaknesses and determine applicability to Illinois' HIE environment and needs; design a project plan that meets the expectations and milestones for production of the Strategic and Operational Plan included in the Cooperative Agreement; and produce a Strategic and Operational Plan that will direct the State's HIE activities through the duration of the four-year project period. The primary costs associated with this scope of work will be for consulting services, project planning, writing, research, meetings, travel to all regions of the state, and communication with stakeholders.

The technical infrastructure planning vendor will work in a manner consistent with that for the other four domains with a scope of work that includes: researching current technical HIE infrastructure nation-wide and assess their strengths and weaknesses; devise a draft set of services that could be offered by the HIE; define the technical standards and protocols for the state-level HIE to conform to ONC, HHS, NIEM and other national standards and guidelines; assess the appropriate configuration of the existing 16 Medical Trading Areas based on criteria that will ensure the best possible chance for rapid success in the implementation phase; determine the data, software, hardware and network, bandwidth and data security needs of the state-level HIE; investigate the availability and applicability of commercial-off-the-shelf and open source software; and create an independent verification and validation plan. This scope of work will require up to 12 technical analysts deployed around the state to complete technical requirements gathering from all planned participants in the state-level HIE, as well as project planning, project management, business and administrative support, writing and travel.

OHIT may elect to engage the services of a single vendor for both strategic planning and technical planning, but the estimated allocation of funds for this purpose will be $5,200,000 for technical infrastructure domain planning and $500,000 for planning across the other four domains. The main deliverable of the planning vendor(s) will be a single, coordinated Strategic and Operational Plan that meets the requirements of the Cooperative Agreement.

Budget Narrative/Justification for Contractual Expenditures – Implementation

Upon completion of the Strategic and Operational Plan for the state-level HIE, OHIT will retain the services of an implementation vendor. This is anticipated to occur in the second half of year one with a projected budget of $7,500,000. The implementation vendor scope of work includes: creation of a project management office to manage resources and ensure adherence to goals and milestones; business and technical support; and approximately 30 technical staff to perform installation, configuration, regression and performance testing, and troubleshooting. It is anticipated that teams of three to six individuals will be deployed statewide to perform these implementation activities. Given the aggressive implementation timeline required to meet federal goals for HIE and meaningful use, the implementation vendor will be required to provide a large initial implementation team, which is reflected in the budgeted cost. Total implemented vendor cost is projected to be $69,132,000 throughout the four year project period.

Pursuant to the phases outlined in the operational plan, the implementation vendor will deploy the various HIE services included in the plan, will perform all appropriate testing and troubleshooting and ensure the achievement of pre-determined performance measures and service levels before moving on to subsequent service implementation phases. Deliverables pursuant to the implementation vendor contract will be measured according to the scope of work, phases, and milestones identified in the Strategic and Operation Plan.