

Maine

Project title: Integrated Public Health Information System (IPHIS)

Organization responsible: Maine Bureau of Health

Service coverage area: State of Maine

Annual birth cohort: 13,500

Project scope and goals

Integration and coordination of all public health data systems, including implementation of integration broker and Web interface for public access.

Funding

The majority of funding is from federal sources. Funding for the base IPHIS platform is from the federal bioterrorism grant, and other support comes from the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity grant. Aspects of subsystem integration are funded through various grants supporting the subsystems. Procurement for private, foundation, and other state funding streams are under exploration.

History

The vision for IPHIS evolved from state planning and assessment related to the CDC's National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS) program in conjunction with:

- senior management efforts to improve the use and quality of data for program planning and evaluation.
- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF)-funded Turning Point community planning efforts.

Executive leadership and organizational endorsements

The Executive Committee comprises representation from the State CIO, Governor's Office on Policy, Maine DHHS CIO, senior Department of Technology leadership, BOH Deputy Director and senior management.

External endorsements

CDC, members of Maine's public health and health-care community.

Significant challenges

- The slow pace of government bureaucracy could disrupt the project schedule.
- Rapidly evolving technology and data exchange standards merit a constant balance between pragmatism and future opportunities.
- Historical concepts of data ownership, business processes, and technology can impede decision-making processes.

- Resource limitations demand creative approaches to project infrastructure, staffing, and sustainability.

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