**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology**

**Announcement of Requirements and Registration for "Proving the Potential: A Health Data and Standards Code-A-Thon"**

**AGENCY:** Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, HHS.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:**

This notice announces "Proving the Potential: A Health Data and Standards Code-A-Thon", hosted by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) on April 24-25, 2017. The competition challenges software developers, students, and aspiring entrepreneurs to team up and leverage publicly accessible internet and health-specific tools to prove the potential for them to work together to solve tangible interoperability challenges in health care while maintaining appropriate levels of privacy and security. The statutory authority for this Challenge is Section 105 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (Public L. No 111-358).

**DATES:** (All times in this notice are in Eastern Standard Time (EST))

- Registration period begins: April 11, 2017

- Registration period ends: April 21, 2017 (at 11:59pm)

- Code-A-Thon: April 24, 2017, 8:00 am to April 25, 2017 12:30 pm.

**LOCATION OF CODE-A-THON:**

1776 Crystal City, 2231 Crystal Dr #1000, Arlington, VA 22202

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Debbie Bucci, debbie.bucci@hhs.gov (preferred), 202-690-0213.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Background of Challenge*

The Patient Matching Aggregation and Linking (PMAL) Project, administered by ONC and funded through the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research (PCOR) Trust Fund (PCORTF), focuses on identifying and testing of standards for matching patients to their data across and between clinical and claims data sets, and the identification of algorithms that can be used to reliably perform patient matching in these contexts. PMAL has also developed security profiles based on OAuth2, OpenId Connect and User-Managed Access (UMA) for securing web application programming interfaces (APIs). These security profiles have been created so that health care APIs can be protected appropriately while providing necessary access to data.

*Purpose of Challenge*

A number of existing open source tools and services support the use of open APIs as a means to exchange clinical and health related data. This challenge aims to encourage developers to leverage these assets to build more advanced services on top of them and showcase their innovations.

*Goals of Challenge*

Teams will showcase their skills and vision using the APIs, software development kits (SDKs), and other tools from leading innovators in health care. This should be a forward-thinking project that enhances interoperability and focuses on demonstrating the potential to seamlessly incorporate one or more of the assets into existing health IT systems.

Contestants will address one of the following use cases:

1. Electronic quality measures and/or decision support

2. Secure and privacy preserving methods to aggregate patient data

3. Discovery of patients, providers, researchers, and/or services

Using one or more of the following open tools and/or services created and/or enhance by contributions from the PMAL effort to create their projects:

- Privacy and Security

    - Security Profiles

        - OpenID Health Relationship Trust (HEART) Profiles

    - OAUTH, OpenID Connect and UMA services and libraries

    - POET

        - Pre OAuth Entity Trust (POET) API

        - Pre OAuth Entity Trust Reference Implementation (POET-RI)

- Data and Matching Services

    - eCQM server

    - Records completeness service

    - Patient matching harness

    - Patient merging

Participants are encouraged to leverage additional open tools and services in combination with those listed above.

*Eligibility for Challenge*

To be eligible to win a prize, teams:

1. Shall have registered to participate in the Code-A-Thon under the rules promulgated by ONC.

2. Shall have complied with all the stated requirements of the Code-A-Thon.

3. All works presented to the judges must be created at the Code-A-Thon unless it is publicly available for use by other participants at the time of the Code-A-Thon under MIT, Apache Creative Commons or other comparable open source license.

4. In the case of a private entity, shall be incorporated in and maintain a primary place of business in the United States, and in the case of an individual, whether participating singly or in a group, shall be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States.

5. Shall not be an HHS employee.

6. May not be a federal entity or federal employee acting within the scope of their employment. We recommend that all non-HHS federal employees consult with their agency Ethics Official to determine whether the federal ethics rules will limit or prohibit the acceptance of a COMPETES Act prize.

7. Federal grantees may not use federal funds to develop COMPETES Act challenge applications unless consistent with the purpose of their grant award.

8. Federal contractors may not use federal funds from a contract to develop COMPETES Act challenge applications or to fund efforts in support of a COMPETES Act challenge submission.

9. All individuals and entities must meet the eligibility requirements.

    1. An individual or entity shall not be deemed ineligible because the individual or entity used federal facilities or consulted with federal employees during a Challenge if the

facilities and employees are made available to all individuals and entities participating in the Challenge on an equitable basis.

2. Contestants must agree to assume any and all risks and waive claims against the Federal Government and its related entities, except in the case of willful misconduct, for any injury, death, damage, or loss of property, revenue, or profits, whether direct, indirect, or consequential, arising from participation in this prize contest, whether the injury, death, damage, or loss arises through negligence or otherwise. Contestants must also agree to indemnify the Federal Government against third party claims for damages arising from or related to Challenge activities.

3. Contestants must comply with the Code-A-Thon Code of Conduct.

## *Registration*

The event is limited to the first 150 registrants with a maximum of 100 contestants; observers are welcomed. Registration for both contestants and observers for this event will be accomplished online at the following link: https://www.cccinnovationcenter.com/challenges/proving-the-potential-a-health-data-and-standards-code-a-thon/registration/ and shall remain open until TBD, at 11:59 p.m., EST. All registrants will receive a confirmation email upon completion.
Check in at the Registration table will begin at 8:00 a.m.; team formations will begin at 9:00 am.

## *Contestants*

Contestants will be asked to form teams that consist of 2-5 contestants; there will be a maximum of 20 teams eligible to participate. Although informal formation of teams is encouraged prior to the competition, contestants will officially determine their team and sign-up the morning of the event. Modification to team make-up may occur based on team skill make-up at the direction of

the competition host to ensure all of those wanting to be a contestant have the opportunity to participate.

*Demonstration Requirements*

1. Contestants must make any source code created accessible to the public via Github;

2. The author(s) must allow modifications and derivations of the work under the solution's original name;

3. No person, group, or field of endeavor can be denied access to the solution;

4. The rights attached to a project's solution must not depend on the solution being part of a particular software distribution;

5. The project must be online and interactive. Supporting screenshots and/or mock-up work flows will not be accepted;

6. The project slides must include links to documentation of all data sources and open source tools used;

*General Submission Requirements*

In order for a submission to be eligible to win this Code-A-Thon, it must meet the following requirements:

1. No HHS or ONC logo – The product must not use HHS' or ONC's logos or official seals and must not claim endorsement.

2. Functionality/Accuracy – A product may be disqualified if it fails to function as expressed in the description provided by the Submitter, or if it provides inaccurate or incomplete information.

3. Security – Submissions must be free of malware. Submitter agrees that ONC may conduct testing on the product to determine whether malware or other security threats may be present. ONC may disqualify the submission if, in ONC's judgment, it may damage government or others' equipment or operating environment.

## *Amount of the Prizes*

The award approving official for this Competition is the Project Lead for the PMAL Project (Debbie Bucci). This effort is funded by the PCORTF through a partnership between ONC and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE).

Total purse – Up to $15,000, with the following ceilings on the number of prizes of each amount:

1 - First Prize – $5,000

2 - Second Prize, - $2,000 each

3 - Third Prize – $1,000 each

6 - Honorable Mentions – $500 each

## *Payment of the Prizes*

Prizes will be paid by contractor.

## *Basis Upon Which Winners Will be Selected*

There will be five judges, each with expertise in health policy, standards, and information technology. Judges will award a score to each submission and decide the winner(s) of the competition based on the highest average overall score. Judges will only participate in judging competitions for which they do not have **any** conflicts of interest.

A panel of judges will assess each solution based on the following criteria:

**Technical Competence and Capabilities/Weight 35%**

The solution effectively leverages the tools and services listed in the Goals of Challenge section of the Code-A-Thon and exhibits interoperability with existing technologies.

**Use of Data to Provide Effective Outcomes/Weight 20%**

The solution is easy to understand, visually appealing, and clearly addresses one of the three use cases identified for this Code-A-Thon .

**Creativity/Innovation/Weight 20%**

The project exceeds expectations through its incorporation of creative design elements and innovative capabilities.

**Valuable Information and Insights Regarding Data/Weight 25%**

Team identifies gaps in standards and utilizes identified assets to demonstrate how the technology may be used to enhance/improve existing privacy and security functions, and share data across the health ecosystem.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

General Conditions: ONC reserves the right to cancel, suspend, and/or modify the Challenge, or any part of it, for any reason, at ONC's sole discretion.

Access: Submitters must keep the submission and its component elements public, open, and available for anyone (i.e., not on a private or limited access setting) on GitHub.

Open Source License: Winning submissions must use MIT, Apache, Creative Commons or other comparable open source licenses.

**Representation, Warranties and Indemnification**

By entering the Challenge, each applicant represents, warrants and covenants as follows:

(a) Participant is the sole author, creator, and owner of the Submission;

(b) The Submission is not the subject of any actual or threatened litigation or claim;

(c) The Submission does not and will not violate or infringe upon the intellectual property rights, privacy rights, publicity rights, or other legal rights of any third party;

(d) The Submission does not and will not contain any harmful computer code (sometimes referred to as "malware," "viruses," or "worms"); and

(e) The Submission, and contestants' use of the Submission, does not and will not violate any applicable laws or regulations, including applicable export control laws and regulations of the U.S. and other jurisdictions.

(f) The Submission must be capable of enabling users to comply with all applicable standards, implementation specifications, and requirements in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) regulations.

(g) If the submission includes any third party works (such as third party content or open source code), participant must be able to provide, upon request, documentation of all appropriate licenses and releases for such third party works. If participant cannot provide documentation of all required licenses and releases

(h) Contestants must indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Federal Government from and against all third party claims, actions, or proceedings of any kind and from any and all damages, liabilities, costs, and expenses relating to or arising from participant's submission or any breach or alleged breach of any of the representations, warranties, and

covenants of participant hereunder. Contestants are financially responsible for claims made by a third party.

ONC reserves the right to disqualify any submission that it deems, in its discretion, to violate these Official Rules, Terms & Conditions.

Dated: April 11, 2017

**Paul Jonathan White, MD**

Deputy National Coordinator for Health Information Technology