

Ohio Department of Health

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N E W S

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**STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO AWARD RECOVERY ACT FUNDING
TO HELP FIGHT HEALTHCARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS**

Money marks continued investment in reducing healthcare-associated infections (HAIs)

Columbus, Ohio—The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is pleased to announce its plans to release \$164,049 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 2009 (ARRA) funding to Ohio hospitals or hospital systems who seek to initiate or expand existing electronic laboratory reporting of selected hospital-acquired infections (HAI) and other reportable infectious diseases.

“With this funding, Ohio will be able to improve its capacity to track, analyze and compare healthcare-associated prevention efforts,” said ODH Director Alvin D. Jackson, M.D. “These funds will help us move ahead in reducing infections and improving patient safety.”

These funds were awarded to states on behalf of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to carry out activities to reduce healthcare-associated infections (HAI) through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC).

Potential applicants are required to submit a summary “expression of interest” in applying for recovery funds on the State of Ohio recovery Web site (recovery.ohio.gov) by selecting the program category "Healthcare" and the subprogram “Healthcare-Associated Infections.” Only projects that have submitted both this initial summary and an application will be considered for funding.

The reporting of data for hospital-acquired *Clostridium difficile*, methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bacteremia, and methicillin-sensitive *Staphylococcus aureus* (MSSA) bacteremia, helps Ohio fulfill its legislative commitment to reduce the spread of infectious diseases in healthcare settings.

CDC estimates that every year, Americans contract 1.7 million infections while being treated in hospitals. These infections are associated with approximately 99,000 deaths annually. In addition to the significant toll on patients’ lives, HAIs represent an estimated \$30 billion in added healthcare costs.

In addition, the Ohio Department of Health announced in November 2009 it was awarded \$139,565.42 in ARRA funds for state surveyors to provide greater oversight in non-accredited Medicare-certified Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASCs) to help reduce healthcare-associated infections in stand-alone or same-day surgical centers.

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