Wyoming Department of Health, ARRA Impact—Healthcare-Associated Infections

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have made available grant money through the existing Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Infectious Diseases (ELC) cooperative agreement for surveillance of healthcare-associated infections (HAI).

The grant consists of three activities, and States can apply for funding to complete any or all of the activities. Funding is competitive and awards for each activity will range from $100,000 to $1,000,000. No state match is required.

Activities:

1. Coordination and Reporting of State HAI Prevention Efforts

2. Detection and Reporting of HAI

3. Establishing a Prevention Collaborative

The funding for these activities are one-time funds. The grant specifically states that States that apply for the funding should be aware that no additional federal funds will be available to continue with the programmatic activities and that "**spending under categories A, B, and or C is contingent upon States ability to sustain activities after Recovery Act funding has ceased**". In addition, States are not allowed to give any of the grant money to hospitals or other healthcare providers to address HAI in their facilities. All of the money must be used at the State level.

In order to meet the requirements of the grant, the WDH would need to hire at least two FTE positions; one high-level FTE (with infection control experience) to work with healthcare providers and one epidemiologist to provide surveillance data analysis, and create a HAI program. An estimate of creating an HAI surveillance and prevention program would be $450,000 per biennium.

The WDH does recognize that HAI are an important topic that needs attention. We feel that by utilizing existing personnel and collaborations with the Wyoming Hospital Association, Wyoming Nursing Home Association, and others, that low and no cost solutions can be obtained.

Given the above limitations the WDH recommends that the State not apply for this funding.