The California Emergency Medical Service Authority (EMSA) is pleased to announce our intent to award the Operator for the Patient Unified Lookup System for Emergencies (PULSE) sub-recipient grant (RFO C16-046) to Santa Cruz Health Information Organization (SCHIE). The grant award is for $310,384.00, and runs through July 26, 2017.

PULSE will connect multiple local data sources (health information organizations and health systems) to a Health Information Exchange (HIE) interoperability broker (to be separately selected). During a disaster, the web portal will be activated, enabling healthcare professionals employed by health systems or participating with HIOs to access patient records through their existing systems. Other authorized healthcare professionals will be able to access the portal via a web portal user interface using single-sign-on assertion. This project will use exchange specifications, Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE) standards, and federated directory services enabled by the California Trusted Exchange Network (CTEN). The PULSE Operator will receive the PULSE system that includes interoperability components to search for, retrieve, and display health information for evacuees and victims during a disaster. The PULSE Operator will have the responsibility for establishing secure test and production hosting environments for the PULSE system, installing and testing its functionality in both environments, integrating with external systems.

This local assistance funding supports collaborative solutions to integrate PULSE as a critical component of the health care system into the HIE landscape consistent with Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) Grant 90IX006/01-00, awarded by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology for PULSE +EMS.