



STRATEGIC INITIATIVE FOCUS GROUPS (SIFGs)

What Are They?

- SIFGs are components of AHDI but are less formally organized compared to local chapters, web-based associations, or state/regional associations.
- SIFGs are purpose-driven groups who share a common interest in preserving and advancing the healthcare documentation profession in their local community.
- SIFGs provide members an opportunity to exchange information, discuss issues, share best practices, and/or collaborate on special projects or initiatives in credentialing, education, membership development, and advocacy and alliance building.

How Are They Created?

- An SIFG can be established anywhere in the U.S. as long as it is within the boundaries of an AHDI state/regional association and is approved by that board of directors.
- The SIFG appoints two lead organizers.
- A description of the SIFG scope, territory, and the name of at least two lead organizers is submitted to the state/regional association board.
- The formation of an SIFG is approved by the state/regional association board.
- The state/regional board determines if there will be SIFG representation on their board.

How Are They Structured?

- An SIFG has two appointed lead organizers.
- The host state/regional associations have oversight of SIFGs within their territory.
- Unlike other AHDI components, SIFGs do not have a board of directors, officers, a bank account or treasury, elections, or bylaws.
- The SIFG will be covered in the state/regional association's affiliation agreement with AHDI and will be covered by the state/regional association's liability insurance.
- SIFGs cannot enter into contracts or agreements.

What Are The Reporting Requirements?

- Reporting requirements for SIFGs are determined by the state/regional board.
- A participant roster must be submitted to the state/regional board twice a year in January and July.

How Are They Funded?

- Funding for SIFG initiatives and activities comes from the state/regional association.
- Money raised by the SIFG will go to the state/regional association treasury.

Who Can Participate (Join) Them?

- To be determined. The membership requirements are being discussed by AHDI's leadership. A final decision is expected in 2011.