

HERMITAGE, PA Sharon Regional Gets \$1M for Tech Center

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Sharon Regional Health System announced Thursday it will use a \$1 million state grant to construct a technology center at the LindenPointe Innovative Business Campus on Route 18. The funding for the project was awarded to the city of Hermitage through Pennsylvania's Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program.



John Zidansek, Sharon Regional CEO, state Sen. Bob Robbins and Duane Piccirilli, president of the Hermitage Board of Commissioners, announce the \$1 million project.

"The timing on the awarding of this grant is phenomenal," said John Zidansek, president and CEO of the health care system. "Sharon Regional recently completed the development of a multi-year IT strategic plan designed to give patients and physicians seamless access to electronic medical records and health data. This \$1 million grant provides the perfect launching point for this process to begin."

Zidansek praised the efforts of state Sen. Bob Robbins, state Rep. Mark Longietti and city officials Gary Hinkson and Gary Gulla to obtain the grant.

"We have been working with Sharon Regional for many years in their efforts to strengthen the health system and recruit quality employees and at the same time we have been working with state officials to secure additional support for technology-based job creation initiatives," said Gulla, assistant city manager. "The timing was such that we were able to leverage this additional funding to support the area's largest employer and create additional technology-based jobs in the community."

Sharon Regional plans to construct its 5,000-square-foot technology center adjacent to the Training & Workforce Development Center and the site of the future Technology Center of Excellence Incubator facility.

The health care system's technology center will house all of Sharon Regional's information technology components for its main campus in Sharon as well as its 19 satellite medical facilities throughout Mercer County and eastern Ohio. And it will employ the most advanced equipment and technology available for electronic medical records, data storage, and other information technology applications, Zidansek said. The health system will relocate its entire IT department to the new center upon completion and expects to add an additional 10 new technology jobs as long-term IT strategic plan is completed.

Sharon Regional Health System employs 1,750 and contributes more than \$260 million annually to the area's economy, according to a recent report published by the Hospital and Health System Association of Pennsylvania.