

Cooperative Agreement to Support Establishment of State-Operated Health Insurance
Exchanges
Department of Vermont Health Access
Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight
FOA: IE-HBE-11-004

Project Director:

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Vermont

Level 1 Grant Application

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The Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) is applying for a Level One Establishment Grant from the Center for Consumer Information and Oversight (CCIIO) to further its planning, development, and design of the Vermont Health Benefits Exchange (Exchange). The State of Vermont has embarked upon an unprecedented multiyear program, embodied in Vermont Act 48 of 2011, that aspires to create for its residents a health care system in which all residents receive coverage from a single source, with all coverage offered equitably and health care costs contained by a systemic reorganization of compensation for providers of care. Because of this ambitious undertaking, Vermont wants to build an Exchange that will interact with virtually all of the 622,000 Vermonters once reforms are fully in place.

Act 48 establishes the Exchange in the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA), the agency responsible for the management of Vermont's publicly funded health insurance programs. Vermont has made great progress in the last twelve months with support from our Planning Grant in the core areas laid out by CCIIO as demonstrated in the numerous completed reports and meeting notes that can be found on DVHA's website

<http://dvha.vermont.gov/administration/health-benefits-exchange>.

This Level One Establishment Grant proposal describes a number of activities that will provide for the necessary infrastructure for Vermont's Exchange. Requested funding will support a refinement or continuance of a number of activities that Vermont initiated during its Planning Grant phase, including stakeholder engagement, program integration, financial management, health insurance market reforms, business operations, and the development of an information technology platform that collects and manages information in a streamlined process across a multitude of state and federal agencies. We are also seeking funds to support a number of staff positions for the Exchange and its sister agencies to ensure that Exchange implementation activities and coordination work move forward as planned. Funding for implementing Vermont's HIX platform is also included in this request, with the understanding that further detail will be required by CCIIO. Finally, we also propose using some Establishment Grant funds to support our evolving concept of a Universal Exchange.

With federal endorsement and support embodied in an Establishment Grant approval, Vermont will be able to proceed aggressively in the design of an Exchange that provides a marketplace for the transparent choice and purchase of individual and small group insurance, interoperability with other government health care programs in the state, and an active platform for the evolution of the single-payer health care system envisioned in Vermont statute.