

Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services

CMCS Informational Bulletin

DATE: May 18, 2012

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SUBJECT: New Guidance on Affordable Insurance Exchanges

Earlier this week, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released important new guidance on Affordable Insurance Exchanges, of relevance to Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Programs (CHIP).

Guidance on Federally Funded Exchanges

Consumers in every State will have access to coverage through an Affordable Insurance Exchange on Jan. 1, 2014. If a State decides not to operate an Exchange for its residents, HHS will operate a Federally-facilitated Exchange (FFE). Guidance available here: http://cciio.cms.gov/resources/files/FFE_Guidance_FINAL_VERSION_051612.pdf, describes how HHS will consult with a variety of stakeholders to implement an FFE, how States can partner with HHS to implement selected functions in an FFE, and key policies organized by Exchange function.

The bulletin outlines key areas of coordination among FFEs, Medicaid, and CHIP programs related to information technology, business processes, and customer service. In addition, the bulletin describes approaches for determining applicants' eligibility for Medicaid and CHIP based on information from applications submitted to an FFE. Please review the guidance document closely, and you can contact Jessica Kahn with questions at (410) 786-9361 or via e-mail at Jessica.Kahn@cms.hhs.gov.

Exchange Blueprint

HHS also released an Exchange Blueprint States may use to demonstrate how their Affordable Insurance Exchange will work to offer a wide range of competitively priced private health insurance options. The Blueprint also sets forth the application process for States seeking to enter into a Partnership Exchange. If a State chooses to operate its own Exchange or a Partnership Exchange, HHS will review and potentially approve or conditionally approve the Exchange no later than Jan. 1, 2013, so it can begin offering coverage on Jan. 1, 2014.

To see the State Exchange Blueprint, visit <http://cciio.cms.gov/resources/other/index.html#hie>, or access it directly at <http://cciio.cms.gov/resources/files/Exchangeblueprint05162012.pdf>.