

\$224 million awarded for health insurance exchange efforts

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The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) awarded a total of \$223,695,549 to six states today (Arkansas, Colorado, Kentucky, Minnesota, Massachusetts, and the District of Columbia) to help establish their health insurance exchanges (HIXs). Today's awarded states are receiving Level One Establishment grants, except D.C., which received a Level Two grant. The funds are expected to further help states move forward with steps in creating the insurance marketplaces. So far, 49 states have received grant funding to build exchange infrastructure, and the grant opportunities will not stop now! States will continue to be able to apply for grants through 2014; awarded funds can be used during the first year the systems are operational.

Here's a breakdown of today's awards:

Arkansas: The **Arkansas Insurance Department** received \$18,595,072 to work in partnership with HHS and other federal and state stakeholders to fully implement plan management and consumer assistance components of the federal exchange.

Colorado: The **Colorado Health Benefit Exchange** received \$43,486,747 to establish services and systems that will help launch the new insurance exchange.

Kentucky: The **Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services** received \$4,423,000 to support the operational plan that outlines the planning, functional and technical design of the state exchange.

Minnesota: The **Minnesota Department of Commerce** received \$42,525,892 to support new contracts to assist in the development of brokers/navigators and consumer services programs for the exchange, and continued work related to financial management and consulting.

Massachusetts: The **Commonwealth Massachusetts Health Insurance Connector Authority** received \$41,679,505 to assist the Health Connector in efforts to successfully transition to a state-based exchange consistent with the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

District of Columbia: The **District of Columbia Department of Health Care Finance** received \$72,985,333 to provide assistance to hire staff and consultants to manage activities related to the creation and first year of operations for testing and enhancement of the exchange.

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