

GovWin Pulse: Health Care and Human Services September Review

Posted At : September 29, 2010 11:20 AM | Posted By : Amanda White

Related Categories: Contract Awards, Technology Trends, Social Services, Health Care, Grants, Forecasts & Spending, State & Local, Contract Opportunities, Policy & Legislation, Procurement, Business Development Tools

A major focus in September was the **Department of Health and Human Services'** recent announcement of federal funding for states to develop strategic plans for their **Affordable Care Act** requires these exchanges to be operational in each state by 2014. These "one-stop-shops" will help alleviate Americans' struggle with the costs of health coverage by finding affordable options. Applications for the grant were due on September 1, 2010, and awarded states will receive up to \$1 million in funds. States like Oregon are working on **plans** for their exchange. The Oregon Health Authority (**OHA**), in conjunction with the Oregon Health Policy Board (**OHPB**), asked for public GovWin on the state's Comprehensive Plan for Health Reform, which includes the health insurance exchange. Comments are due by the end of September 2010.

In other big September news, the Center for Disease Control (**CDC**) announced **\$42.5 million** in funding for Public Health Systems. The grant will fund 94 new projects throughout the country. The grant is part of the National Public Health Improvement Program (**NPHIP**), which contains two major components: 1) Addressing performance management improvement. 2) Enhancing efforts to effect public health system changes that improve public health impact. California's health departments will receive the most funding (\$2,060,128 for the state and \$1,859,950 for Los Angeles County).

On the social services side, the Department of Agriculture (**USDA**) announced awarded technology grants of approximately **\$14 million** to 13 states for their Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children Programs (WIC). The grants will assist states in their electronic benefits transfer (EBT) implementation. The effort is part of the Obama administration's goal of ensuring all Americans have access to proper nutrition. The grants are expected to increase the effectiveness of WIC and its benefits. New York state was awarded \$400,000 for EBT planning. The New York Department of Health (**NYDOH**), Bureau of Supplemental Food Program received **approval** from the USDA for its planning and advanced planning document (PAPD).

Noteworthy request for proposals (RFPs) released this month:

- **Texas**- The Texas Department of State Health Services released a request for offers (RFO) on September 8, 2010 for the Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Systems for Nontraditional Retail Outlets. Proposals are due on December 8, 2010.
- **Texas**- The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) released an RFP on September 17, 2010 for Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V) Services. Proposals are due on October 25, 2010.
- **New York**- The city of New York Human Resources Administration (HRA) Office of Customized Assistance Services released an RFP on September 8, 2010 for a Wellness, Comprehensive Assessment, Rehabilitation and Employment (WeCARE) Program. Proposals are due on December 1, 2010.
- **Nebraska**- The Nebraska Administrative Services, Material Division and Purchasing Bureau, on behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services released an RFP on September 8, 2010 for Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) Consulting Services. Proposals are due on October 8, 2010.
- **Oklahoma**- The Oklahoma Employment Security Commission (OESC) released an RFP on September 14, 2010 for Consulting Services for a Technology Based Overpayment Prevention, Detection and Collections System for Benefit Payment Control (BPC). Proposals are due on October 7, 2010.

Significant projects coming up:

- **Washington, D.C.**- The District of Columbia Department of Health's Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program will be releasing an RFP for consulting and planning services.
- **Indiana**- The state of Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning (OMPP) will be procuring for Customer Relationship Management for the MMIS Replacement Project.
- **Mississippi**- The Mississippi Department of Health, Division of Medicaid is currently working on an RFP for Asset Verification System services.

- **Nevada**- The Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services released a request for information (RFI) on September 27, 2010 for Asset Verification Services. RFI responses are due on October 25, 2010.
- **North Dakota**- The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDOH) released an RFI on August 30, 2010 for a statewide public health information System. RFI Responses were due on September 24, 2010.

GovWin's Take:

September brought opportunities for states to receive funding in planning and implementation efforts for major systems mandated under the Health Reform Act. In the months to come, states will be heavily involved in finalizing plans for executing health insurance exchanges, public health system developments, and EBTs.