

## California not slowed down by Supreme Court Ruling

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California is one state that refuses to let the Supreme Court ruling slow it down from implementing a health benefit exchange. The state recently **contracted** with Accenture to build the California Healthcare Eligibility, Enrollment and Retention System (CalHEERS). Initial development and implementation of the system is expected to be approximately \$183 million. Moreover, a total of \$176 million has been allotted for the continued development and initial operating costs over approximately three-and-a-half years.

The system is expected to start enrolling Californians in the fall of 2013 for coverage that will begin in January 2014. There will be two releases: One, for CalHEERS to go live on July 1, 2013, as a Web portal to provide initial ability for consumers and small employers to shop and compare plans; and two, for enrollment that will take place on October 1, 2013. At this time, CalHEERS should be able to add functions that allow people to assess their eligibility for Medi-Cal, Health Families or subsidized coverage of the exchange.