

Overview of Health Insurance Exchange State Planning and Establishment Grant Award

The federal Health and Human Services Office for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (OCIIO) awarded Oregon a State Planning and Implementation Grant. The grant award is \$1 million for the period September 30, 2010 – September 29, 2011. The grants are intended to give states the resources to conduct the research and planning needed to build a better health insurance marketplace and determine how their Exchanges will be operated and governed. Future funding will support development and implementation activities that States will undertake through 2014.

Project Summary

Oregon's overall goal for its exchange planning grant is to develop a detailed operational plan for a state exchange. The plan will include a needs assessment, technical infrastructure planning, operations planning, and cost estimates that together will allow the state to begin implementation of an exchange for use in the Oregon individual and small group markets. This project plan will be based on the high-level exchange plan currently being created by the Oregon Health Policy Board for the Oregon Legislature. The exchange planning grant will allow Oregon to turn its existing policy planning into operations planning.

Oregon grant funds will be used to:

1. Develop detailed policy guidance that lays out specifics for the governance, organizational structure, operations, benefits rules, coordination with existing public programs, risk mediation, and financing.
2. Determine resource needs for the development of the exchange, including needs in the following areas: staffing; contracting; technical infrastructure; and other implementation and administrative needs.
3. Build a detailed implementation plan that will facilitate the implementation of the policy decisions laid out in Oregon's exchange plan. This includes but is not limited to a detailed implementation timeline.

For more information please see the [project abstract](#).

Grant funds will support:

- Staffing
- Contractual support in actuarial analyses, resources and capabilities assessments, operational planning, technical infrastructure planning, financial planning, and business operations planning
- Consumer advisory work
- Travel expenses related to grant activities

Stakeholder Involvement

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) has established an inter-agency health insurance exchange planning steering committee to oversee the work of the grant. The steering committee will provide guidance, help staff identify and overcome barriers, and ensure that the grant goal and objectives are met. In addition, the following strategies will be used to ensure stakeholders are engaged in and help the state develop an exchange.

Additional strategies include:

- Written and in person updates to the Policy Board to present policy options and recommendations and gather feedback from both the Board and the public. These meetings are web-streamed, and listeners can email questions to the Board during the meetings, as well as at any other time;
- Build on the work of other OHA public input efforts by using a web portal to elicit public comment;
- Establish a consumer advisory group to provide guidance and feedback during the exchange planning process. This group will provide input on the exchange planning work and will help the OHA consumer engagement coordinator develop plans for consumer education and engagement in preparation for the implementation of an exchange in Oregon. Members will be drawn from individual and small business health care consumers, as well as representatives of organizations working to assist consumers and ensure that they receive access to quality, affordable health coverage. The group will meet four times during the grant year: in fall 2010; at the start of the 2011 legislative session; once an exchange bill is passed by the state legislature (likely early summer 2011); and near the conclusion of the exchange planning grant year (late summer/early fall 2011); and
- Continue to utilize the Technical Assistance group formed in spring 2010 to support staff development of exchange recommendations for the Policy Board. This group includes health insurance representatives, actuaries, small business owners, insurance producers, organized labor, advocacy organizations, and state Insurance Division staff. The Technical Assistance group helped think through policy options and their associated implications. The group is anticipated to play a similar role during the operational planning efforts. The group will meet as needed to provide input and guidance.

For more information on the grant program, please see the [OCIIO web site](#).

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