



SEP 30 2010

Magda Schaler-Haynes
New York State Department of Insurance
1 Commerce Plaza
Albany, NY 12257-0001

Dear Ms. Schaler-Haynes:

On behalf of the Office of Health Insurance Exchanges in the Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (OCIIO), I am pleased to inform you that we will fund your project in the amount of \$1000000 under Funding Opportunity Announcement CFDA 93.525, entitled State Planning and Establishment Grants for the Affordable Care Act's Exchanges.

Health Insurance Exchanges will empower the American people to truly compare the health benefits they purchase for the first time. The Exchanges will allow individuals and small businesses access to bargaining power comparable to that of established larger groups. Health Insurance Exchanges help level the playing field by putting greater control and greater choice in the hands of consumers.

These grants are designed to help states determine whether they should establish an Exchange, and if so, assist them in beginning to conduct the critical planning activities for Exchange development. The Affordable Care Act put states on the front lines of changing the health insurance marketplace to benefit consumers. These grants will give New York the necessary resources to determine how the Health Insurance Exchange can best serve consumers. HHS will help facilitate the sharing of information among states as the grants are utilized to ensure the most efficient use of federal dollars.

Your Notice of Grant Award will be mailed to you soon. Pursuant to the HHS Grants Policy Statement, terms and conditions are associated with the receipt of this grant and will be included with the Notice of Grant Award.

We at OCIIO thank you for your commitment and look forward to continued collaboration with New York to ensure the Exchange in your state fulfills the principals of affordability, quality, transparency and access that are embodied in the Affordable Care Act.

Sincerely,



Jay Angoff
Director