

- i. **Application Title:** Cooperative Agreement to Support Establishment of State-Operated Health Insurance Exchanges, Level 2 Establishment and Development
- ii. **Applicant Organization Name:** Commonwealth of Massachusetts Health Insurance Connector Authority (Health Connector)
- iii. **Funding Opportunity Number:** CFDA: 93.525
- iv. **Address:** 100 City Hall Plaza, 6th Floor Boston, Massachusetts 02108
- v. **Congressional District Served:** MA-008
- vi. **Organization Website:** www.mahealthconnector.org
- vii. **Category of Funding:** Level Two
- viii. **Projected Date for Project Completion:** December 2014

History of Organization

The Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority (Health Connector) is an independent state authority created by chapter 58 of the acts of 2006 to implement key elements of Massachusetts' historic health reform law. The Health Connector serves as an Exchange that assists individuals, families, and small employers in acquiring health coverage either through the Commonwealth Care (CommCare) or Commonwealth Choice (CommChoice) programs. CommCare is a subsidized insurance program available to adults in Massachusetts earning up to 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Level who generally do not have access to Employer-Sponsored Insurance or other subsidized insurance and who meet certain other eligibility guidelines. CommChoice is a non-subsidized insurance program available to individuals and to small employers with 50 or fewer employees. In addition to administering these programs, the Health Connector is also responsible for policy development associated with the adult health coverage mandate and administration of appeals for those tax filers who have chosen to appeal potential tax liabilities for not having coverage. Earlier this year, state legislation was enacted allowing the Health Connector to perform the duties and responsibilities required of a state-based Exchange in compliance with the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Brief Description of Populations Served by Project

In transitioning to an ACA-compliant state based Exchange, Massachusetts will need to consider the impact the ACA will have on existing populations served by the Exchange as well as populations it is preparing to serve in 2014 and beyond. Unique to Massachusetts, we must prepare existing members for coverage transitions prompted by new opportunities presented by the ACA. In addition, we must make modifications to our operational and technological infrastructure in order to best serve individuals and small businesses that will be shopping through the Exchange. Projects funded through this grant opportunity will, among other things, support the development and stabilization of a single, integrated "real-time" eligibility system to determine eligibility for state and federally-subsidized health insurance coverage. This multi-agency project will enhance the shopping experience for individuals and small businesses shopping for health insurance through an Exchange. As such, this application takes into consideration the operational interface between the Exchange and the Massachusetts' Office of Medicaid, which has been a major operational and strategic partner for the Health Connector since its inception. That partnership will be further strengthened under the ACA in light of Medicaid's expansion and other opportunities for promoting seamless coverage transitions for members.

Brief Description of Proposed Projects and Deliverables

The projects proposed in this application will assist the Health Connector and supporting state agencies in the effort to successfully transition the Health Connector to an ACA-compliant, state-based Exchange while maintaining a commitment to its existing members, and ensuring seamless transitions for members. In particular, funding from this grant will support the first year of operations of the Health Connector as an ACA-compliant state based Exchange in 2014. Among other projects, this opportunity will support the development and operation of a Massachusetts-specific risk adjustment program that will ensure stability in our merged market and will provide funding to develop and execute a robust outreach and education campaign designed to inform Massachusetts residents of the benefits available to them through the ACA and the Health Connector.

Brief Description of Other Relevant Information Including Proposed Impact of Funding

Massachusetts remains committed to providing its residents access to affordable health insurance coverage, and the Health Connector has an important role in that initiative. Funding from a Level Two Establishment grant will allow the Health Connector to invest in efforts to achieve timely ACA compliance and build on the success of the state's initial health reform efforts.