

- i. Application Title: Cooperative Agreement to Support Establishment of State-Operated Health Insurance Exchanges, Level 1 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, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Boston, Massachusetts 02108
- v. Congressional District Served: MA-008
- vi. Organization Website: [www.mahealthconnector.org](http://www.mahealthconnector.org)
- vii. Category of Funding: Level one
- viii. Projected Date for Project Completion: October 2013

**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 the Health Connector 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. Projects funded through this grant opportunity will, among other things, enhance the experience, products and services for individuals and small businesses shopping for health insurance through an Exchange taking into consideration the operational interface between the Exchange and the Massachusetts Medicaid Program, 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 expansion and other opportunities for promoting seamless coverage transitions. As a result, the Health Connector is requesting funding for resources to assist with these Exchange transition efforts.

**Brief Description of Proposed Projects and Deliverables**

The projects proposed in this application will assist the Health Connector in its efforts to successfully transition to an ACA-compliant state-based Exchange while still maintaining a commitment to its existing members served under today's exchange model. Among other things, funding from this grant will support the development of a robust risk-adjustment program that will ensure stability in our merged market. A significant portion of this request will fund a multi-agency project overseen by the Health Connector, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services and the University of Massachusetts Medical School to build a single, integrated "real-time" eligibility system to determine eligibility for state and federally-subsidized health insurance coverage.

**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 One 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.