



## **Health Insurance Exchange: Early Innovator Grant Award in Rhode Island**

February 16, 2011

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**Project Title:** New England States Collaborative Insurance Exchange Systems

**Background:** Rhode Island must facilitate health insurance coverage for individuals and small businesses in accordance with the Affordable Care Act (ACA). A health insurance exchange will be established in Rhode Island to meet the requirements of the ACA. Rhode Island's Exchange will require significant information technology to support determining eligibility and facilitating enrollment in health insurance coverage for qualified individuals and small businesses. There are opportunities for Rhode Island to learn from the work of the Massachusetts Health Connector.

**Goal of the Grant:** The grant will fund the development of information technology (IT) infrastructure components for health insurance exchanges. Each New England state will work with Massachusetts to inform the operational and technical design of these components. Final IT components may be used by the New England states to operate their state-based health insurance exchanges. Components will be designed such that they are consumer-focused, cost-effective, reusable, and sustainable. Examples of IT infrastructure components to be developed under this grant that Rhode Island may benefit from include:

- web-based enrollment in subsidized and unsubsidized health insurance,
- secure data transfer technology, and
- real-time connections with federal databases to verify eligibility.

**Goal of Rhode Island's participation in the collaboration:**

Participating in New England's collaboration for the Early Innovator grant situates Rhode Island as a leader in health reform implementation. Specifically, this collaboration allows Rhode Island to:

- (1) Coordinate efforts and maximize efficiency in exchange technology development with MA and other New England states,
- (2) Learn operational practices from Massachusetts' implementation of its state exchange (Health Connector),
- (3) Accelerate the development of Rhode Island's exchange infrastructure, and
- (4) Participate in defining shared standards for Exchanges to facilitate possible future insurance market regionalization.

**Award amount:** \$35, 591,333. Massachusetts is the grant recipient. Rhode Island will receive funding to cover our staff participation in grant activities (amount to be determined – will be proportional to our participation).

**Timeframe:** February 16, 2011 – February 14, 2013

**Rhode Island leads:** Art Schnure will serve as Rhode Island's technical lead. He has been the Project Manager for the Department of Human Services Center for Adult Health for the past six years, providing the state with technical advice, technical document production such as RFPs, project estimations, and project management oversight for IT implementation projects. Angela Sherwin will be Rhode Island's business lead. She is the Principal Policy Associate for the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC). Together they will participate in the governance of the project and its work plan to ensure it meets the needs of Rhode Island's Exchange.