

What's New

West Virginia Offices of the Insurance Commissioner



Laws and Regulations

Volume 1, Issue 6
February 2012



On January 5, 2012, HHS announced that streamlining electronic funds transfers in health care will bring a total savings to more than \$16 billion in ten years.

[Affordable Care Act provision cuts red tape, saves up to \\$4.5 billion](#)

--

On January 18, 2012, the White House issued a report on states' progress in implementing Health Insurance Exchanges. The report also summarizes federal Exchange funding awarded to states to date. The press release can be found here:

[Press Release](#). The report is located [here](#)

--

On January 12, 2012, HHS announced it had found proposed premium rate increases to be unreasonable in five states. The press release can be found here:

[Press Release](#)

--

Inside this issue:

Grants and Funding	2
Exchange Activity in Other States	2
Calendar	3
Other Information	3

Guidance and Other Federal Communications

On January 4, 2012, HHS promulgated its final rule on the initial core set of quality measures for Medicaid-eligible adults. [Final Rule](#)

--

On January 5, 2012, US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius wrote an opinion piece in the Washington Post, highlighting how the ACA will help curb health care costs, which "won't happen overnight. The opinion is located [here](#).

--

The Washington Post /Associated Press, reported on January 18th that President Barack Obama's health care overhaul is on track in many states, the White House asserted Wednesday. But officials said the administration is preparing a federal backstop anyway for states in which opposition to the new law has blocked planning.

--

The Washington Health Policy Week in Review reported on January 3, 2012 big pieces of the health care law could easily remain standing even if the U.S. Supreme Court rules later this year that its individual mandate is unconstitutional. The report can be found [here](#).

--

On January 25th, CCIIO release a document that provides a list of the products with the three largest enrollments in the small group market in each State using data from HealthCare.gov.

The information is to complement the bulletin on essential health benefits (EHB) under the Affordable Care Act released on December 16, 2011. The document is located [here](#).

--

Grant Announcements and Other Funding

A January 3, 2012, A Washington Post article reported on the end of federal ACA funding for state consumer assistance programs (CAP). [Washington Post article](#)

--

The **Pennsylvania** Insurance Department has submitted its Level 1 Exchange Establishment Grant to HHS, requesting \$33 million. The application is located [here](#).

--

New York Insurance Department has submitted its Level 1 Exchange Establishment Grant to HHS, requesting \$48.5 million. The application is located [here](#).

--

Nevada requested additional Level 1 funding for \$15.3 million. The application is located [here](#).



Additional information is available on our web site:

www.bewv.com

Exchange Activity In Other States

Alaska: On January 3, 2012, the *Associated Press* reported that Alaska's Department of Health and Social Services, awarded a Boston's Public Consulting Group for the Health Insurance Exchange RFP. [The News Tribune Article](#)

--

Arizona: In a report dated January 5, 2012, the Governors' Office of Health Insurance Exchange posted the final planning report, work plan, budget and timeline. [Report](#)

--

Arkansas: On January 19, 2012 several Arkansas media sources reported that Arkansas will pursue the federal-state hybrid model for the health benefit exchange. Details may be found in [The City Wire Article](#).

--

Colorado: The Colorado Health Benefit Exchange released Dr. Jonathan Gruber's report and PowerPoint presentation on planning and establishing the Exchange, on January 9, 2012. [Report](#)

--

New York: Legislative Actions [NY Gov Cuomo sets aggressive agenda for 2nd year](#) The Wall Street Journal, Associated Press January 5, 2012.

--

Washington: On January 5, 2012, the Washington Health Benefit Exchange Board held their first meeting.

--

Wisconsin: Governor Walker announced the return of \$37.8 million Early Innovator grant funding the State received to establish IT systems for the state exchange. Additionally, the Governor issued Executive Order 57. [Press Release](#)

The following Exchange-related RFP's were released in January 2012:

CMS: Facilitate communication and collaboration among CMS and States for a shared perspective on Exchange operations.

--

Colorado: Service and Technology [RFP](#)

--

California: Development and Operations Services for CalHEERS. [RFP](#)





February 2012

West Virginia Offices of the Insurance Commissioner

1124 Smith Street
Room 305
Charleston, WV 25301

Phone: 304-558-6279
Fax: 304-558-0138
Email: Jeremiah.Samples@wvinsurance.gov

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	Presidents Day	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

Additional information is available on our web site: www.bewv.com

Upcoming Calendar Meetings	
Friday 10th Carrier 1:00 PM	Tuesday 21st Consumer 1:00 PM
Monday 13th Producer 1:00 PM	Tuesday 28th Providers 1:00 PM

Other Reference Materials, Notices and Related Information

Consumer testing by Consumers Union confirms the widely held perception that people struggle to understand their health insurance policies. The report "What's Behind the Door: Consumers' Difficulties Selecting Health Plans" is located [here](#)

--

The National Center for Health Statistics released new health insurance coverage estimates showing that 46.6 million people (15.3%) in the United States were uninsured: [here](#)

--

New estimates from the National Center for Health Statistics show a continued rise in wireless-only households. The report is located [here](#). (see SHADAC's [issue brief](#) on this topic for more information).

--

The Smart Business Network reported that small business should be taking advantage of all of the tax credits available is just plain good business sense. For employers who provide health care coverage, a tax credit of 35 percent bumps up to 50 percent in 2014. This will go a long way to offset insurance costs. The report is located [here](#).

--

Kaiser Report on State Medicaid Policies. This report is their annual 50-state survey of Medicaid and CHIP eligibility rules; enrollment and renewal procedures; and cost-sharing practices. The report is located [here](#).

--

On January 23, 2012, HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius appeared on The Daily Show, with Jon Stewart. In this unedited, extended interview, Kathleen Sebelius discusses the Affordable Care Act's provisions and the rules by which insurance companies will have to abide: [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#)

--

Disclaimer: The information presented in this document does not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the state of West Virginia or the West Virginia Offices of the Insurance Commissioner

Reference Guide

Laws and Regulations:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/01/20120105a.html>

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/01/18/new-report-states-moving-forward-implement-health-reform-s-affordable-in>

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/01-18-12_exchange_report.pdf

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/01/20120112a.html>

Guidance and Other Federal Communications:

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-01-04/pdf/2011-33756.pdf>

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-affordable-care-act-helping-americans-curb-health-care-costs/2012/01/05/gIQAZgHfdP_story.html

<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Newsletters/Washington-Health-Policy-in-Review/2012/Jan/January-9-2012/The-2012-Road-to-Overhaul.aspx>

http://cciio.cms.gov/resources/files/Files2/01272012/top_three_plans_by_enrollment_508_20120125.pdf

Grant Announcements and Other Funding:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/texas-consumer-health-assistance-program-to-close-after-losing-federal-funding/2011/12/20/gIQAPOrNUP_story.html

http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/health_insurance/9189/health_insurance_exchange/1064758

http://www.healthcarereform.ny.gov/health_insurance_exchange/exchange_establishment_grant.htm

<http://dhhs.nv.gov/HealthCare/Meetings/2011/12-08/NV-Second-LevelOneCoopAgreementApplication.pdf>

Exchange Activity In Other States:

<http://www.thenewtribune.com/2012/01/03/1967985/state-moves-ahead-on-health-care.html>

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/hix/documents/QuickLinks/ExchangePlanningGrantReportFinal.pdf>

<http://www.thecitywire.com/?q=node/19915>

<http://www.getcoveredco.org/Get-Involved/Workgroups/Data-Advisory-Work-Group>

<http://online.wsj.com/article/AP78383b55a5d647538cd916ba27bd274b.html>

<http://165.189.60.210/Default.aspx?Page=84c6be7e-6bf7-47bb-949a-7330dd644579>

<http://www.getcoveredco.org/Resources/Contract-Announcements>

<http://www.healthexchange.ca.gov/Documents/Solicitation%20HBEX4%20-%20CaIHEERS%20Dev%20and%20Ops%20Services.pdf>

Other Reference Materials, Notices and Related Information:

<http://www.consumersunion.org/pub/pdf/Consumer%20Difficulties%20Selecting%20Health%20Plans%20Jan%202012.pdf>

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhis/earlyrelease/insur201109.pdf>

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhis/earlyrelease/wireless201112.htm>

<http://www.shadac.org/publications/impact-wireless-only-households-state-surveys-health-insurance-coverage>

<http://www.sbsonline.com/2012/01/health-care-and-insurance-concerns-for-small-businesses/?full=1>

<http://www.kff.org/medicaid/8272.cfm>

<http://www.thedailyshow.com/watch/mon-january-23-2012/exclusive---kathleen-sebelius-extended-interview-pt--1>

<http://www.thedailyshow.com/watch/mon-january-23-2012/exclusive---kathleen-sebelius-extended-interview-pt--2>