

PLANNING FOR VERMONT'S HEALTH BENEFITS EXCHANGE

The Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) applied for and received a \$1 million Exchange planning grant from the federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in October, 2010. After issuing a Request for Proposals and reviewing bids from ten vendors, DVHA contracted with Bailit Health Purchasing to assist with the Exchange planning process. The current contract extends through September 30th of 2011. Vermont will submit another application to HHS in September for additional funding for the implementation phase of Exchange development.

The contract with Bailit provides the following work products:

Roadmap for Planning: This report provides a strategic approach to answering questions and identifying key decision points in the Exchange planning process.

Study of uninsured and underinsured Vermonters: This report uses the 2009 Household Health Insurance Survey results to create a profile of the uninsured and underinsured population.

Stakeholder analysis: These reports provide feedback obtained through interviews, focus groups, and surveys from a number of stakeholder groups, including uninsured Vermonters, underinsured Vermonters, small businesses, agents and brokers, and non-profit organizations involved in health care. Bailit is also facilitating formal Exchange Advisory Group meetings.

Study of the current insurance market: This report analyzes Vermont's insurance market as it exists today, with the goal of providing Vermont officials with a better understanding of what changes may need to occur to comply with federal requirements for the Exchange.

Assessment of current programs and integration opportunities: This report will help define how various State agencies (DVHA, BISHCA, Department for Children and Families) will work together to ensure seamless eligibility determination and enrollment in Exchange plans, both public and private.

Formal assessment of "churning:" This report will evaluate the extent to which "churning" (the movement of enrollees on and off programs and among programs) is a problem in Vermont, and what steps Vermont may take to mitigate the effects on enrollees and the system.

Report on Exchange functions: This analysis will provide a description and an estimated cost for each of the functions the Exchange must perform.

Exchange sustainability options analysis: This report will provide options for Vermont's Exchange to achieve financial sustainability by 2015.

Basic Exchange design: Using the information obtained from the reports and analyses described above, Bailit will recommend an overall design for Vermont's Exchange.

Exchange implementation plan: The final product will be a detailed implementation plan containing milestones and tasks that Vermont must complete to implement an Exchange in late 2013.

Completed work products are available on DVHA's Exchange web page:
<http://dvha.vermont.gov/administration/health-benefits-exchange>