

## NC Department of Insurance Grant Summary 2010

The Department of Insurance applied for and has received award notification of three Federal grants. The following were awarded during the months of September and October 2010:

1. [Premium Review Assistance Grant](#) - This grant provides resources to the Department of Insurance to enhance the rate review process. With the grant the Department will be outsourcing a review of current actuarial review procedures to determine what enhancements can be made to those review procedures to strengthen the rate review process. Expectations are that recommendations will be made to enhance the rate review process for health insurance legislatively, including expanding the Department's prior approval authority, standardizing data requirements for rate filings, and increasing transparency in the rate review process. Additionally, the grant will be used to provide additional staffing for the Department to assist with healthcare reform implementation. This is a five year grant opportunity for states.
2. [Exchange Planning and Establishment Grant Application](#) – This grant provides resources for the State of NC to review and study how a Health Benefit Exchange might be implemented in NC. The NC Department of Insurance will partner with the NC Department of Health and Human Services, and the NC Institute of Medicine to study the NC market and how an Exchange might operate to the benefit of NC consumers. This study includes a review of the market place to determine the number of eligible individuals that may purchase coverage through an exchange and also determine the number of Medicaid eligibles. It will also include a review of governance and best possible solution for an exchange to be operated in NC. This grant is one time grant. However, should the state decide to establish an Exchange AND the State makes adequate progress in our planning for the establishment of an Exchange, then the State may apply for additional funding through the Federal Government for the Establishment of Exchanges which will be issued in 2011.
3. [Consumer Assistance Program Grant](#) – This grant provides resources for The NC Department of Insurance to establish a consumer assistance program to help consumers navigate the health insurance market in NC assisting with counseling consumers with best choice and offering assistance with enrollment, complaints, and external review.