



AFFORDABLE CARE ACT MASSACHUSETTS IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

August 18, 2014

Quick Links

[MA-ACA Website](#)



These Updates, published by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) in consultation with the other state agencies involved in ACA implementation, will bring you news related to the implementation of provisions of the ACA here in Massachusetts.

Grants and Demonstrations

The ACA provides funding opportunities to transform how health care is delivered, expand access to care and support healthcare workforce training.

Grant Announcements

Limited Competition for ACA Consumer Assistance Program Grants, §1002. Announced August 13, 2014. Funding is available to states to establish, expand, or provide support for the establishment of independent offices of health insurance consumer assistance or ombudsman programs.

Consumer Assistance Programs are independent offices that will provide consumer support by helping with filing complaints and appeals regarding health insurance coverage requirements, assist with enrollment into group health plans and health insurance coverage, provide education on group health plans and health insurance coverage, and help resolve related problems with the enrollment process. Eligible applicants are limited to states who received funds in the 2010 funding cycle. \$5,314,364 in total is available for twelve awards.

Applications are due September 15, 2014.

This announcement may be viewed at: GRANTS.GOV

Grant Activity

For information about ACA grants awarded to and grant proposals submitted by the Commonwealth, visit the Grants page of the **Massachusetts National Health Care Reform website** at: www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/commissions-and-initiatives/healthcare-reform/national-health-care-reform-plan/grants-and-demonstrations.html

Guidance

8/12/14 IRS/Treasury issued Notice 2014-47 regarding the Health Insurance Providers Fee.

Notice 2014-47 provides guidance for the 2014 fee year on how the IRS will administer the definition of a "covered entity" for purposes of the health insurance fee under the ACA.

The Health Insurance Providers Fee [final rule](#) (which was published in the Federal Register on November 29, 2013) provides guidance on the annual fee imposed on covered health insurance plans engaged in the business of providing insurance for United States health risks under ACA §9010. The ACA defines a United States health risk to include the health risk of a U.S. citizen or a resident non-citizen.

Beginning in 2014, each health insurance plan with aggregate net premiums exceeding over \$25 million is liable for the annual fee due by September 30th of each fee year. The annual fee for each entity is determined by the ratio of the plan's net premiums for the previous calendar year and the aggregate net premiums of all qualified health insurance plans for the previous calendar year. Health plans that have net premiums that exceed \$25 million but are less than \$50 million will have 50% of their net premiums taken into account for this calculation. Entities with net premiums over \$50 million will have 100% of their net premiums taken into account for this calculation. The regulation establishes the aggregated annual fee for all entities at \$8 billion for 2014, \$11.3 billion for 2015 and 2016, \$13.9 billion for year 2017, and \$14.3 billion for 2018. The regulation also lists exemptions from the fee which include self-insured employers, government entities and certain nonprofit corporations.

Read Notice 2014-47 at: www.irs.gov/pub/irs-drop/N-14-47.pdf

Prior guidance can be found at: www.hhs.gov/healthcare/index.html

Upcoming Events

Integrating Medicare and Medicaid for Dual Eligible Individuals (also known as One Care) Open Meeting

Friday, August 22, 2014

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

State Transportation Building, 10 Park Plaza, Boston

We welcome attendance from all stakeholders and members of the public with an interest in One Care. Reasonable accommodations will be made for participants who need assistance. Please send your request for accommodations to Donna Kymalainen at: Donna.Kymalainen@state.ma.us.

Bookmark the **Massachusetts National Health Care Reform website** at: [National Health Care Reform](#) to read updates on ACA implementation in Massachusetts.

Remember to check the Mass.Gov website at: [Dual Eligibles](#) for information on the "**Integrating Medicare and Medicaid for Dual Eligible Individuals**" initiative.

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