



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

December 7, 2012

The Honorable John Hickenlooper
Governor of Colorado
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

I am pleased to let you know that Colorado has received conditional approval to establish a State-based Exchange. Congratulations on reaching this significant milestone on the path to establishing an Exchange for the citizens of Colorado.

Conditional approval reflects the substantial progress Colorado Health Benefit Exchange (COHBE) has made and an expectation that COHBE will be ready to provide affordable, quality coverage for consumers and small businesses in 2014.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has reached this decision based on COHBE's self-assessment, progress to date, and expected progress across the entire spectrum of Exchange requirements, and is contingent upon the following conditions:

1. Timely demonstration of the ability to perform all required Exchange activities in line with the attestations Colorado has made in its Exchange Blueprint Application submission;
2. Ongoing compliance with future guidance and regulations. During the first year of the program (plan year 2014), approval of a State-based Exchange will account for timelines related to guidance and infrastructure development; and
3. Ability to collect forms as part of QHP certification process.

Given all that is involved in launching a new program, I want to congratulate you on the progress COHBE has made in implementing a State-Based Exchange. We look forward to continued collaboration with you and COHBE.

CMS will continue its work with the Exchanges, including providing more detailed information directly to your State Exchange, COHBE.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Sebelius".

Kathleen Sebelius

Enclosure