



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

December 20, 2012

The Honorable Lincoln D. Chafee  
Governor of Rhode Island  
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Governor Chafee:

I am pleased to inform you that Rhode Island 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 people of Rhode Island.

Conditional approval reflects the substantial progress the Rhode Island Health Insurance Exchange (RIHBE) has made and an expectation that RIHBE 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 RIHBE's attestations, progress to date, and expected progress across the entire spectrum of Exchange requirements, and is contingent upon the following conditions:

1. Demonstrate the ability to perform all required Exchange activities in line with the attestations Rhode Island has made in its Exchange Blueprint Application submission;
2. Comply with regulations and expected progress milestones. 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. Develop and present a comprehensive implementation plan and participate, together with the system integrator (SI) vendor and CMS, in a working session to discuss the plan within 30 days of the SI start date, or prior to February 28, 2013, whichever is sooner. The implementation plan must reflect updated timelines, milestones, re-prioritization of projects as needed, and will outline specific opportunities for reuse, which RIHBE will leverage from Massachusetts, the New England States Collaborative for Insurance Exchange Systems (NESCIES), and other States in order to shorten the "time to market" and be operationally ready by October 1, 2013.

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

Sincerely,

Kathleen Sebelius