



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

March 5, 2013

The Honorable Terry E. Branstad
Governor of Iowa
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Dear Governor Branstad:

I am pleased to inform you that Iowa has received conditional approval to establish a State Partnership Exchange for 2014. We commend Iowa for taking this important step towards providing affordable health insurance for consumers. Congratulations on reaching this significant milestone on the path to establishing an Exchange for the people of Iowa.

Conditional approval reflects the substantial progress Iowa has made and an expectation that Iowa will be ready to assist in providing affordable, quality coverage for consumers and small businesses in 2014. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has reached this decision based on Iowa's self-assessment, progress to date, and expected progress across the entire spectrum of Exchange requirements, and the decision is contingent upon the following conditions:

1. Demonstrate the ability to perform all required Exchange activities in line with the attestations Iowa has made in its Exchange Blueprint Application submission; and
2. Comply with regulations and expected progress milestones. During the first year of the program (plan year 2014), approval of State Partnerships will account for a state's need for guidance from CMS and other federal agencies and the time necessary for infrastructure development.

We recognize that Iowa is working under intense timelines and will work with you to establish benchmark dates that are appropriate and will allow us to monitor Iowa's progress. CMS will continue its work with the Exchanges, including providing more detailed information directly to Iowa's Partnership Exchange.

Sincerely,

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

Kathleen Sebelius