

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201



May 7, 2013

Cynthia Crone
Arkansas Exchange Project Director
1200 West 3rd Street
Little Rock, AR 72201-1904

Re: Arkansas Partnership Marketplace Conditional Approval Decision

Dear Ms. Crone:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) thanks you for your team's continued collaboration in developing a State Partnership Marketplace (SPM) in Arkansas. We are writing to congratulate you on the many achievements recently made, including beginning the process of reviewing applications for qualified health plans and in-person assister guides.

Secondly, we wish to inform you that CMS has removed a condition that was previously requested of all partnership states, namely to sign a memorandum of understanding with CMS outlining specific roles and responsibilities of CMS and the state. Notwithstanding removal of this condition, CMS expects Arkansas to perform in accordance with the attestations in its Marketplace (Exchange) Blueprint Application submission.

Conditional approval will continue so long as Arkansas continues to meet expected progress milestones and successfully demonstrates its ability to perform all required SPM activities. This decision is contingent upon the following conditions:

1. Arkansas must demonstrate the ability to perform all required Marketplace activities in line with the attestations Arkansas has made in its Marketplace (Exchange) Blueprint Application submission; and
2. Arkansas must comply with applicable regulations and expected progress milestones. During the first year of the program (plan year 2014), approval of SPMs will take into consideration a state's need for guidance from CMS and other federal agencies and the time necessary for infrastructure development.

We look forward to our continued work with the Arkansas Marketplace team and welcome the prospect of continued collaboration to provide health insurance access to Arkansans through the Marketplace beginning in 2014.

Sincerely,

Gary Cohen
Director
Centers for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight