

DAVID CARLYLE, MD

August 18, 2010

Hon. Michael Gronstal
Senate Majority Leader

Hon. Patrick Murphy
Speaker of the House
State Capital, Des Moines, Iowa

Dear Sen. Gronstal and Rep. Murphy:

In response to your letter of July 15, 2010, we would like to update you on the status of two Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) grants in which the Commission has been involved.

- **Federal Planning Establishment Grant** (CFDA No. 93.525)
This grant will provide \$1million to each state to begin the process of planning for the establishment of an American Health Benefit Exchange (and Small Business Health Options program). The application is due September 1, 2010. This particular grant was discussed at the Commission's July 21, 2010, meeting where the commissioners recommended that the state pursue this opportunity.

Anne Kinzel, Jennifer Vermeer (DHS - Medicaid Director), and Angela Burke Boston (IID) attended a grant informational meeting with federal representatives in Minneapolis on August 3, 2010. They were able to bring back some very useful information to help jumpstart the state's application process. Following meetings between Suzan Voss, Jennifer Vermeer, Tom Newton, and Anne Kinzel, the decision was made that IDPH would lead the grant writing team.

Grant funds will be awarded October 1, 2010. Initially, HHS was not going to fund this grant until April 2011, however, states have been very concerned about the need to start exchange planning immediately given the reality of a January 1, 2014, exchange start date. Given the very tight application deadline, we have directed Anne to assist IDPH as much as her schedule allows.

- **Consumer Assistance Grant** (CFDA No. 93.519)
This grant will provide \$30 million to help states and territories establish or strengthen consumer assistance offices to meet consumers' need for information and assistance due to PPACA changes in the health insurance marketplace. Funding will be allocated using a population-based formula (minimum funding: \$125,000)

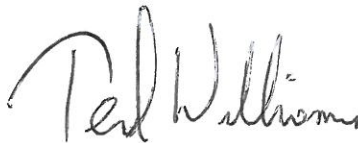
The Commission's Workgroup 3 discussed this opportunity at its meeting on August 11, 2010, where the workgroup recommended to us that the state pursue this opportunity. It is our understanding that Commissioner Voss will be leading the effort to obtain this grant. We have directed Anne to assist IID as her schedule allows and their needs dictate.

As new opportunities become available we will provide you with further comment and recommendations.

Regards,



David Carlyle,
Chair
Legislative Health Care Coverage Commission



Ted Williams
Vice-Chair

cc Iowa Legislative Health Care Coverage Commission