



District of Columbia In-Person Assister Program
Notice of Funding Availability
Application Release Date: On or Before May 24, 2013
Application Submission Deadline: 30 calendar days after release

Overview

On March 23, 2010, President Obama signed into law the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). This law put into place comprehensive reforms that improve access to affordable health insurance coverage for all Americans. It aims to protect consumers from unfair health insurance practices and allows all Americans to make health insurance choices that work best for them. At the same time it guarantees access to care for the most vulnerable populations and provides new ways to lower costs and improve the quality of care.

As part of the ACA, all states and the District of Columbia will have new insurance marketplaces. The District has established the Health Benefit Exchange Authority to setup an insurance marketplace for individuals and small businesses to help them compare and purchase health insurance plans. This Exchange marketplace will offer private health insurance with better prices, better choices, and better quality. Individuals with incomes up to \$46,000 and families of four with incomes up to \$95,000 that don't have access to employer based health insurance or Medicaid will be eligible to receive tax credits to make health insurance coverage more affordable.

To successfully enroll these individuals, families, and businesses into health insurance coverage, the District is developing a set of robust outreach and enrollment mechanisms. One of these resources, the In -Person Assister (IPA) Program, will help consumers learn about, apply for and enroll in an appropriate health insurance product, which includes Medicaid and private health insurance options available through the Exchange. The District's IPA program aims to:

- 1) Reduce the number of uninsured individuals in the District through a) raising awareness of coverage options; b) facilitating enrollment in a qualified health insurance plans and insurance affordability programs; and c) promoting the retention of coverage.
- 2) Develop a highly knowledgeable IPA workforce to educate consumers and small businesses on their full range of health coverage and access options and educate consumers about how to understand and use health coverage.
- 3) Coordinate with related programs and entities, serving as a one-stop shop with the ability to connect individuals, families and businesses to other services.

4) Track performance and outcomes.

The DC Exchange marketplace will issue a Request for Application (RFA) seeking applications from qualified organizations who will serve as In-Person Assister entities in the District of Columbia.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants can be not-for-profit, for-profit, community-based, civic, health, or faith-based organizations located in the District, that may have trusted relationships and networks for reaching out to hard to reach uninsured and underinsured populations. Each In-Person Assister organization selected will receive significant training to perform eligibility and enrollment duties to reach target populations.

Applicants may include individual organizations or groups of organizations working in partnership. Applications on behalf of more than one organization must include letters of intent or similar documents confirming the roles of each organization in the application.

Eligible Uses of Funds

This RFA will make available up to \$10,000,000 in grants, subject to Federal approval, to eligible organizations. The size of individual awards will vary based on the population and service area proposed by the applicant. The performance period will be July 2013 until December 31, 2014.

RFA Release and Amendments

The RFA will be available at www.dchbx.com under the District of Columbia Health Benefit Exchange Authority, www.opgd.dc.gov under the District of Columbia Grants Clearinghouse, and other locations to be announced. The RFA will be released on or before May 24, 2013. The deadline for submission of applications will be 5:00pm EST, 30 calendar days after release.

Prospective applicants will need to submit contact information in order to receive any amendments or clarifications that might be issued. Instructions for submitting such information will be made available with the RFA.

Pre-proposal Conferences

There will be multiple pre-proposal conferences for organizations with questions scheduled for after release of the RFA. The scheduled dates and times will be in the RFA.