

Budget Narrative: Colorado Health Benefit Exchange Grant Proposal to The Colorado Health Foundation

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET

The Colorado Health Benefit Exchange estimates its total project budget for the Connect for Health Assistance Network will be \$20,027,844 for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. This total project budget represents \$17,893,844 total revenue from Government Grants, and \$2,134,000 in revenue from The Colorado Health Foundation request.

TOTAL REQUEST TO THE COLORADO HEALTH FOUNDATION

The Colorado Health Benefit Exchange (COHBE) requests \$2,134,000 for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 to fund the navigator component of the Assistance Network that will support COHBE customers with education, application and enrollment services. COHBE anticipates the remainder of the total program costs for the Assistance Network in Year 1 will be funded through federal grants. Year 1 will include COHBE's first open enrollment cycle.

PROPOSAL REVENUE

While federal Government Grants are a revenue source for the Enrollment Assistance Program as a whole, federal regulations prohibit use of federal grants to fund the federally-required navigator function. Therefore, the navigator component of the program would be solely funded through this request to the Colorado Health Foundation.

PROPOSAL EXPENSES

Almost all proposal expenses are classified as Programming/Project Costs. These Programming/Project costs will fund the grants COHBE will make to regional hubs and assistance sites and support those entities' activities to assist customers with application and enrollment for health coverage. COHBE grantees will be required to provide detailed budgets with each request. Allowable (COHBE grantee) costs will be limited to support activities directly related to application support such as staff, supplies, and technology assistance. Regional hubs will be granted additional funding for their added commitments toward convening, coordination, outreach and training.

The grant budget was built with assumptions as to the number of Coloradans who may be supported by the Assistance Network and the number of regional hubs that would effectively support the Assistance Sites (estimated 6 hubs, with approximately 5 FTE's at each site). The hubs will receive funding from COHBE to reimburse their costs directly associated with training, materials, meeting space and other overhead costs they incur while supporting the Assistance Sites in their area. In their grant applications, the potential awardees will need to provide specific information as to the number and cost of resources for which they are requesting funding.

Other assumptions used in building the budget follow:

- A minimum of 2-3 cultural/diversity targeted Assistance Sites
- Estimated 115 statewide Assistance Sites
- Funding for Assistance Sites will be based on Level of Effort
- 39% of the marketplace stated a preference of using a "community resource" for coverage assistance + 19% stated they did not know how they would purchase coverage through the Exchange (source: PricewaterhouseCoopers Health Research Institute, "Change the Channel")
- Length per encounter will range between 30-90 minutes dependent upon the level of support required

- Assistance Sites will operate year round with peak staffing required during open enrollment periods

COHBE requests \$10,000 per year to fund Administrative costs related to the program such as travel and meeting related expenses that are not funded through federal grants. COHBE staff will need to travel around the state for site visits and will need to convene meetings for grantees for orientation, information sharing, and other coordination purposes. Some costs associated with meetings, such as refreshments, are prohibited under federal grants.