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Ohio Department of Insurance Seeking Proposals to Implement a Temporary High Risk Pool in Ohio

State seeking non-profit entities to operate a qualified high risk pool program

COLUMBUS –The Ohio Department of Insurance, today, released a request for proposals to eligible non-profit entities to operate the state’s temporary high risk pool. This new program, resulting from the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), will provide health insurance coverage to uninsured individuals with pre-existing conditions beginning in 2010 until December 31, 2013.

PPACA directs the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to implement a temporary high risk pool program directly or through contracts with eligible entities. Guidance from HHS indicated that states may designate a non-profit entity as the proposed insurer to operate a qualified high risk pool on behalf of the State.

The entity selected by the State of Ohio to be its designee to operate a temporary high risk pool program must work with and coordinate with the Ohio Department of Insurance to submit a proposal to HHS on or before July 1, 2010 in response to the HHS Solicitation and any additional regulations or guidance issued by HHS. The Ohio proposal to HHS must be approved by the Department of Insurance prior to submission to HHS to receive the State’s designation. The proposed state designee must have the capacity and technical capability to perform all functions necessary to the design, implementation and operation of a qualified temporary high risk pool. The proposed state designee must also design, implement, and operate a qualified high risk pool that is compliant with the HHS design requirements as outlined in the HHS Solicitation, Exhibit D. The proposed program may not place the State of Ohio at risk for any health care expenses or matching funds.

To view the RFP criteria, visit www.healthcarereform.ohio.gov. All questions from entities eligible to operate a High Risk Pool Program regarding this RFP should be submitted in writing via e-mail and sent directly to Mugsy.Reynolds@ins.state.oh.us. The deadline for submitting a response to this RFP is June 4, 2010 at 3pm EST by email to Mugsy.Reynolds@ins.state.oh.us.

For more information about Ohio’s implementation of the PPACA, visit www.healthcarereform.ohio.gov.

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