OHIO'S PROJECT ABSTRACT

Ohio's Health Benefit Exchange planning process will begin with the development of underlying information and analyses necessary for Ohio to decide whether to and how to implement and operate an exchange that meets the state's goals and objectives. Through the planning process, Ohio will develop a vision and goals for an Ohio exchange and assess whether a state-operated or a federal exchange will best meet the needs of Ohioans. Specifically, Ohio will:

- Identify the important issues and critical areas that must be addressed to create an exchange under the new market rules;
- Collect and analyze the data needed to make important decisions;
- Develop appropriate legal entity, governance structures, operational systems and technical infrastructure to ensure the exchange is implemented to achieve Ohio's vision; and
- Develop a project plan, financial projections, a business plan and budget to establish and operate a state exchange.
- If Ohio decides to operate an exchange, move forward with statutory and regulatory actions needed establish an exchange and complete tasks necessary for prompt implementation.

Ohio's planning process will be transparent to the public and involve the Governor's office, state legislators, state agencies, stakeholders and the public.

Ohio will use grant funds for staff to lead the exchange planning process; develop plans, systems, projections, budgets and key documents to implement and operate an exchange; coordinate stakeholder and public input; and integrate the exchange with public and private programs. Ohio also intends to contract with consultants to model changes to Ohio's health insurance market, provide Medicaid projections, and assist with operational and financial planning. These expenses are outlined in Ohio's budget and budget narrative.

Ohio's total budget under this grant proposal is $1,000,000.