



Welcome to the latest issue of the CT Health Insurance Exchange eNewsletter. Issued monthly, we hope this serves as a valuable resource for updating you on Exchange planning and implementation. We have joined Twitter [@ExchangeCT](#) - please follow us to receive daily news, information on meetings, and updates on Board meetings and policy decisions. As always, this eNewsletter is posted to our new website, where you can continually find information on current and past Exchange activities: www.ct.gov/hix.

A Message from the CEO

August may be a typical month for vacations, but, for the Exchange staff, it is one of our busiest months to date. Given that we are now engaged in a 14-month sprint to open enrollment in October 2013, this month we are heads down on completing the required "blueprint" activities outlined by CMS in order to certify our Exchange.

[Read more](#)

Upcoming Meetings

- Consumer Experience and Outreach Advisory Committee, Wednesday, September 12, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m..
- Brokers, Agents and Navigators Advisory Committee, Thursday, September 13, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- Health Plan Benefits and Qualifications Advisory Committee, to be announced
- Small Employer Health Options Program Advisory Committee, Tuesday, September 11, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- Board Meeting, Thursday, September 27, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

all meetings (unless otherwise noted) will be held at the Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford.

News Feed

The Wall Street Journal: Employers Move To Adapt To Health Law. Two major provisions of the health-overhaul law take effect Wednesday, testing employers' ability to adapt to changes the measure mandates. (Radnofsky, 7/31).

USA Today: Health Insurance Rebates May Keep Premiums Down For Everyone. As the last of \$1 billion worth of this year's health insurance rebate checks goes out to consumers this week, insurers and government officials say the new regulation may be keeping premiums lower for everyone (Kennedy, 7/31).

More "In the News" items are posted on our site.

Exchange Updates

Grant Funding Awards

The CTHIX was recently awarded a Level Two Establishment grant for \$107 million, making it one of only six states to achieve this milestone ([read the press release](#)). Level Two grant funds will primarily drive the development of an IT system to facilitate crucial Exchange functions such as eligibility, enrollment, and information exchange among individuals, employers, insurance carriers, and state and federal government agencies. The CTHIX was also awarded a \$1.5 million Level One Supplement grant to provide continued support for critical Level One project goals such as the establishment of our administrative structure, internal financial management processes, and fulfilling contractual obligations.

A total of [four funding grants](#), including the recent Level Two and supplemental grant, have been secured to support work focused on designing and building the Exchange. The two earlier grants were the Exchange's initial Planning Grant secured in September 2010 and the Level One grant received in August 2011.

Committee & Board Updates

Board Member Profile



The 14 members of the Board of Directors represent a wide range of experience and expertise, both in and outside health care and health insurance. In each issue of our newsletter, we will profile a board member, highlighting their diverse backgrounds, professional experience and passions that led to their inclusion on the

Exchange Board. Our first profile is of the Board Chair, Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman, who for more than 30 years has served the residents of Connecticut in a variety of roles. [Read more](#)

Essential Health Benefits (EHB) Plan Recommendations Made -- Public Comment Underway

After three months of extensive analysis, the Health Plan Benefits and Qualifications Committee in collaboration with the Consumer Experience and Outreach Committee offered its recommendation around the Essential Health Benefits (EHB) package and the selection of a benchmark plan to the Board of Directors. The plan will serve as a model and set the minimum standards for all qualified health plans offered for the individual and small group markets, both inside and outside the Exchange. A full report and detailed explanation outlining the process taken to make a recommendation was delivered on July 26, 2012. The plan is pending public approval and the deadline for public commentary is September 7, 2012. [Learn more about the EHB options in this presentation](#). [CTN broadcast of the Board meeting](#).

Research Update

A comprehensive qualitative research effort to gauge the health insurance needs of consumers and small business owners in Connecticut is coming to a close. The outreach included focus groups and interviews with a diversity of insured status, demographics and cultural backgrounds. The results will be instrumental in addressing the needs of consumers and small business owners and launching an outreach effort that informs and drives awareness. A full report of [qualitative consumer research](#) is available for review and small employer research will be posted soon. A quantitative research study to verify and validate recommended program messages and outreach has been recommended and will be deployed this fall.

Did You Know?

Since 2010, more than 50 provisions of the health reform law have taken effect. An [interactive timeline](#) by The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation explains how and when the provisions of the health reform law will be implemented over the next several years.

Please feel free to forward this email to your constituents and colleagues. Anyone interested in more information can [sign up to receive updates](#). As always, if you have news to share or questions, please [contact us](#).

Sincerely,
Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange
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