



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New marketplace on track to offer quality health coverage for Arkansans in 2014

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius today announced that Arkansas is conditionally approved to operate a State Partnership Exchange. Arkansas is partnering with HHS to operate a health insurance marketplace, which will be ready for open enrollment in October 2013. This partnership will allow Arkansas to make key decisions and tailor the marketplace to local needs and market conditions.

"I applaud Arkansas's work to build a new health insurance marketplace," Secretary Sebelius said. "Arkansas has made significant progress, and will be ready in ten months for open enrollment when Arkansans will be able to use the new marketplace to easily purchase quality health insurance plans."

To date, 20 states including DC have been conditionally approved to partially or fully run their marketplaces – with the remaining states having until February 15, 2013 to apply for a State Partnership Exchange.

Because of the Affordable Care Act, consumers and small businesses will have access to a new marketplace starting in 2014 where they can access quality, affordable private health insurance. These comprehensive health plans will ensure consumers have the same kinds of insurance choices as members of Congress.

Consumers in every state will be able to buy insurance from qualified health plans directly through these marketplaces and may be eligible for tax credits to help pay for their health insurance.

For more information on the new health insurance marketplace, visit:

<http://www.healthcare.gov/exchanges>

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