

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201



FACT SHEET

Expanding Access to Women’s Health Grant Program

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ (CMS) Expanding Access to Women’s Health Grant program provides grant funds to 14 states and the District of Columbia to support state planning and implementation of the following pre-selected market reforms and consumer protections, under Part A of Title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act (PHS Act): Section 2707-Comprehensive Health Insurance Coverage and Section 2713-Coverage of Preventive Health Services. The grants focus on supporting state efforts to enhance and expand coverage of, and access to, reproductive health care and maternal care

Through the Expanding Access to Women’s Health Grant program, states may develop activities and programs as part of planning and implementing the pre-selected market reforms and consumer protections to address disparities in access to reproductive health care and maternal health outcomes. Ensuring women have access to reproductive and maternal health information, coverage, and services is critical to supporting a woman’s ability to make safe and informed decisions about her health care and coverage options.

Grant Awards Overview

CMS is awarding almost \$9 million to assist state departments of insurance in support of planning and implementing the pre-selected federal insurance market reforms and consumer protections under Part A of Title XXVII of the PHS Act. This grant program is focused on supporting state efforts to enhance and expand coverage of, and access to, reproductive and maternal health services. Grant funds can be used for a variety of planning and implementation objectives related to the pre-selected market reforms and consumer protections, including but not limited to developing campaigns to educate women on what reproductive health care coverage options, including family planning services, are available in the state; expanding access to family planning services; assessing and updating current essential health benefits (EHB) benchmark plans to include a broader scope of benefits coverage for reproductive and maternal health services; and assessing the cost of broadening coverage of reproductive health care services in the state under the state’s EHB benchmark plan. Each grant has a project and budget period of 24 months from the award date: September 20, 2024, to September 19, 2026.

Each applicant awarded a grant was eligible to receive a minimum baseline amount of \$600,000 (see Table 1 for award totals by jurisdiction). Applicants were able to budget for less than the maximum amount available to them.

In addition to receiving a baseline award, each applicant awarded a grant will also receive “workload” funds. Workload funds are determined based on the population and number of health insurance issuers in the state. Each applicant that submitted a letter of intent (LOI) to apply for the grant was informed of their eligible workload funds amount after their LOI submission. The workload funds are awarded at the same time as the baseline funds.

Grants are being awarded to the District of Columbia (D.C.) and the following states: Arkansas, Colorado, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Maine, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Table 1: Expanding Access to Women’s Health Grant Awards by State (Includes Baseline and Workload funding amounts)

States	Total Award Amount
Arkansas	\$614,000
Colorado	\$625,673
D.C.	\$609,467
Hawaii	\$610,936
Massachusetts	\$627,854
Maine	\$595,297
Mississippi	\$611,819
Nebraska	\$611,990
New Hampshire	\$610,871
New Jersey	\$624,150
New Mexico	\$614,292
Pennsylvania	\$635,352
Vermont	\$248,641
Washington	\$620,000
Wisconsin	\$495,000

Background on Grant Funding

This funding is part of the \$250 million Congress appropriated for Rate Review Grants provided under Section 2794 of the PHS Act to assist states with the health insurance rate review process. Section 2794(c)(2)(B) of the PHS Act specifies that any appropriated Rate Review Grant funds, that are not fully obligated by the end of fiscal year 2014, shall remain available to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for grants to states for planning and implementing the insurance market reforms and consumer protections under Part A of Title XXVII of the PHS Act.

CMS previously used unspent funds from the Rate Review Grants to award Health Insurance Enforcement and Consumer Protections Grants in October 2016, the State Flexibility to Stabilize the Market Cycle I Grants in August 2018, and the State Flexibility to Stabilize the Market Cycle II Grants in September 2021. The grants announced today are unspent Rate Review Grant funds that CMS is awarding to provide states with resources to support the establishment of innovative measures that support planning and implementing pre-selected market reforms and consumer protections under Part A of Title XXVII of the PHS Act to improve their health insurance markets.

For more information on the grant awards, visit:

<https://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Resources/Funding-Opportunities/index.html>