

The Health Insurance Rate Review Grant Program
Grants to States to Support Health Insurance Rate Review and Increase Transparency in the
Pricing of Medical Services,
Cycle IV

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Standard¹ Grant/Cooperative Agreement² Terms and Conditions

1. **Recipient.** The Recipient is the Grantee designated in the Notice of Award.
2. **The HHS Grants Policy Statement (HHS GPS).** This award is subject to the requirements of the HHS GPS that are applicable to the Recipient based on the Recipient type and the purpose of this award. This includes any requirements in Part I and II (available at <http://www.hhs.gov/asfr/ogapa/aboutog/hhsgps107.pdf>) of the HHS GPS that apply to an award. Although consistent with the HHS GPS, any applicable statutory or regulatory requirements directly apply to this award in addition to any coverage in the HHS GPS.
3. **Uniform Administrative Requirements.** Title 45 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) provides uniform administrative requirements for all Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) grants and cooperative agreements, in 45 CFR Parts 74 and 92. These regulations are based upon entity type and can be accessed via the links provided below.

45 CFR Part 74 - Uniform Administrative Requirements for Awards and Subawards to Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, Other Nonprofit Organizations, and Commercial Organizations <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2002-title45-vol1/pdf/CFR-2002-title45-vol1-part74.pdf>

45 CFR Part 92 - Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State, Local, and Tribal Governments <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2002-title45-vol1/pdf/CFR-2002-title45-vol1-part92.pdf>
4. **Cost Principles.** This award is subject to the principles set forth below for determining costs of grants, contracts, and other agreements based upon entity type as set forth in the following cost principle documents which can be accessed via the links provided below and are specifically incorporated herein.

¹ Standard Terms and Conditions include all possible grants administrative requirements for CMS awards. All standard terms and conditions apply unless the requirement is not applicable based on the project awarded. Recipients should contact their assigned Grants Management Specialist if they have questions about whether an administrative term and condition applies.

² A Cooperative Agreement is an alternative assistance instrument to be used in lieu of a grant whenever substantial Federal involvement with the recipient during performance is anticipated. The difference between grants and cooperative agreements is the degree of Federal programmatic involvement rather than the type of administrative requirements imposed. Therefore, statutes, regulations, policies, and the information contained in these standard terms and conditions that are applicable to grants also apply to cooperative agreements, unless otherwise stated.

- **Institutions of Higher Education:** 2 CFR Part 220 (Formerly OMB Circular A-21)
http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars_default/
- **State and Local Governments:** 2 CFR Part 225 (Formerly OMB Circular A-87)
http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars_default/
- **Nonprofit Organizations:** 2 CFR Part 230 (Formerly OMB Circular A-122)
http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars_default/
- **Hospitals:** 45 CFR Part 74, Appendix E
<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2007-title45-vol1/pdf/CFR-2007-title45-vol1-part74-appE.pdf>
- **For-Profit Organizations: FAR 31.2 [Contracts with Commercial Organizations]**
<http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?c=ecfr&SID=80bc6470ba120ab181d9a93a600a420d&rgn=div5&view=text&node=48:1.0.1.5.30&idno=48>

5. Additional Cost Requirements. Recipients must comply with the following supporting documentation requirements:

- Equipment/Technology items – As defined in 45 CFR Parts 74 and 92, equipment means tangible nonexpendable personal property, including exempt property, charged directly to the award having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit. However, consistent with recipient policy, lower limits may be established. Technology items such as computers that do not meet the \$5,000 per unit threshold or an alternative lower limit set by recipient policy that may therefore be classified as supplies, must still be individually tagged and recorded in an equipment/technology database. This database should include any information necessary to properly identify and locate the item. For example: serial # and physical location of equipment (e.g. laptops, tablets, etc.). **In addition, purchase of Technology items (both those classified as equipment (tangible nonexpendable personal property with an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit) and those classified as supplies (tangible expendable personal property with an acquisition cost of less than \$5,000 per unit)), over and above that which is already approved in the budget must be approved by the Grants Management Specialist (regardless of acquisition cost).**
- Travel mileage expenses - All federally funded travel must be tracked through a travel log which includes: traveler/position, destination, length of stay, mileage, per diem, reason for the trip, airfare, and any other reimbursable expenses.
- Conference attendance - For attendance at any conference, including those sponsored by CMS, recipients must submit a breakdown of costs associated with attending the conference for prior approval. This should include all costs associated with travel to the conference and a brief narrative explaining the program related purpose/how attending the conference will further the objectives of the program. (see **Attachment A** for the HHS Policy on Promoting Efficient Spending for Conferences and Meetings)

6. **Audit Requirements.** This award is subject to OMB Circular A-133 which provides requirements for the audit of States, local governments, and non-profit organizations expending Federal awards. Non-federal entities that expend \$500,000 or more in a year in Federal awards shall have a single or program specific audit conducted for that year in accordance with OMB Circular A-133, Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations (http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/a133/a133_revised_2007.pdf).

For questions and information concerning the submission process, please contact the Federal Audit Clearinghouse (entity which assists Federal cognizant and oversight agencies in obtaining OMB Circular A-133 data and reporting packages) at 888-222-9907 or <http://harvester.census.gov/sac>.

*Commercial Organizations must comply with the specific audit requirements in 45 CFR 74.26(d).

7. **Programmatic and Financial Reporting.** Recipients must comply with the programmatic and financial reporting requirements outlined in the Program Terms and Conditions of award. Failure to submit programmatic and financial reports on time may be basis for withholding financial assistance payments, suspension, termination or denial of continued funding. Recipient's failure to timely submit such reports may result in a designation of "high risk" for the recipient organization and may jeopardize potential future funding from the Department of Health and Human Services.
8. **Funding for Recipients.** All funding provided under this award shall be used by the Recipient exclusively for the program referenced in the Notice of Award and described in the funding opportunity announcement and delineated in the Recipient's approved proposal. This includes any approved revisions, as applicable, made subsequent to the Recipient's approved proposal. If the Recipient should use any of the funds for any purpose other than for the approved program, then all funds provided under this award shall be returned to the United States Treasury.
9. **Public Reporting.** When issuing statements, press releases, requests for proposals, bid solicitations, and other documents describing the project funded in whole or in part with Federal money, all Recipients receiving Federal funds, including but not limited to State and local governments and recipients of Federal research grants, shall clearly state: (1) the percentage of the total costs of the program or project which will be financed with Federal money; (2) the dollar amount of Federal funds for the project or program; and (3) the percentage and dollar amount of the total costs of the project or program that is financed by nongovernmental sources.
10. **Central Contractor Registration (CCR) and Universal Identifier Requirements.** This award is subject to the requirements of 2 CFR part 25, Appendix A which is specifically incorporated herein by reference. For the full text of 2 CFR part 25, go to <http://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Resources/Funding-Opportunities/award-term-for-central-contractor-registration.html>. To complete Central Contractor Registration requirements, Recipients must register or maintain registration in the System for Award Management (SAM)

database. Please consult the SAM website (<https://www.sam.gov/portal/public/SAM/>) for more information.

- 11. Trafficking in Persons.** This award is subject to the requirements of Section 106 (g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104). The full text may be found at <http://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Resources/Funding-Opportunities/trafficking-term.html>, and which is incorporated herein by reference.
- 12. Subaward Reporting and Executive Compensation.** This award is subject to the reporting requirements of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-282), as amended by Section 6202 of Public Law 110-252 and implemented by 2 CFR Part 170. Recipients must report information for each first-tier subaward of \$25,000 or more in Federal funds and executive total compensation for the Recipient's and Sub-Recipients' five most highly compensated executives as outlined in Appendix A to 2 CFR Part 170. Information about the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act Subaward Reporting System (FSRS) is available at www.frs.gov. For the full text of the award term, go to <http://www.cms.gov/CCIIO/Resources/Funding-Opportunities/ffata.html>. For further assistance, please contact Iris Grady, the Grants Management Specialist assigned to monitor the subaward reports and executive compensation at divisionofgrantsmanagement@cms.hhs.gov.
- 13. Employee Whistleblower Protections.** All Recipients must inform their employees in writing of employee whistleblower rights and protections under 41 U.S.C. 4712 in the predominant native language of the workforce. For the full text of the award term, re *Pilot Program for Enhancement of Contractor Employee Whistleblower Protections*, refer to **Attachment B** to these Standard Terms and Conditions.
- 14. Fraud, Waste, and Abuse.** The HHS Office of the Inspector General (OIG) maintains a toll-free number (1-800-HHS-TIPS [1-800-447-8477]) for receiving information concerning fraud, waste, or abuse under grants and cooperative agreements. Information also may be submitted by email to hhstips@oig.hhs.gov or by mail to Office of the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, Attn: HOTLINE, 330 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20201. Such reports are treated as sensitive material and submitters may decline to give their names if they choose to remain anonymous.
- 15. Human Subjects Protection.** If applicable to Recipient's program, the Recipient bears ultimate responsibility for protecting human subjects under the award, including human subjects at all sites, and for ensuring that an assurance approved by OHRP and certification of IRB review and approval have been obtained before human subjects research can be conducted at each collaborating site. Recipients may not draw funds from the payment system, request funds from the paying office, or make obligations against Federal funds for research involving human subjects at any site engaged in nonexempt research for any period not covered by both an OHRP-approved assurance and IRB approval consistent with 45 CFR Part 46. Costs associated with IRB review of human research protocols are not allowable as direct charges under grants and cooperative agreements unless such costs are not covered by the organization's indirect cost rate.

HHS requires Recipients and others involved in grant/cooperative agreement-supported research to take appropriate actions to protect the confidentiality of information about and the

privacy of individuals participating in the research. Investigators, IRBs, and other appropriate entities must ensure that policies and procedures are in place to protect identifying information and must oversee compliance with those policies and procedures.

16. Project and Data Integrity. Recipient shall protect the confidentiality of all project-related information that includes personally identifying information.

The Recipient shall assume responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of the information contained in all technical documents and reports submitted. The CMS Project Officer shall not direct the interpretation of the data used in preparing these documents or reports.

At any phase in the project, including the project's conclusion, the Recipient, if so requested by the CMS Project Officer, must deliver to CMS materials, systems, or other items used, developed, refined or enhanced in the course of or under the award. The Recipient agrees that CMS shall have a royalty-free, nonexclusive and irrevocable license to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use and authorize others to use the items for Federal government purposes.

17. Use of Data and Work Products. At any phase of the project, including the project's conclusion, the Recipient, if so requested by the CMS Project Officer, shall submit copies of analytic data file(s) with appropriate documentation, representing the data developed/used in end-product analyses generated under the award. The analytic file(s) may include primary data collected, acquired or generated under the award and/or data furnished by CMS. The content, format, documentation, and schedule for production of the data file(s) will be agreed upon by the Principle Investigator/Project Director and the CMS Project Officer. The negotiated format(s) could include both file(s) that would be limited to CMS's internal use and file(s) that CMS could make available to the general public.

All data provided by CMS will be used for the research described in this grant award only and in connection with the Recipient's performance of its obligations and rights under this program. Recipient has an obligation to collect and secure data for future monitoring by CMS. The Recipient will return any data provided by CMS or copies of data at the conclusion of the project. All proprietary information and technology of the Recipient are and shall remain the sole property of the Recipient.

All publications, press announcements, posters, oral presentations at meetings, seminars, and any other information-dissemination format, including but not limited to electronic/digital media that is related to this project must include a formal acknowledgement of support from the Department of Health and Human Services, citing the Funding Opportunity Number as identified on the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) as follows: "The project described was supported by Funding Opportunity Number PR-PRP-14-001 from the U.S Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services." Recipient also must include a disclaimer stating that "The contents provided are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of HHS or any of its agencies." One copy of each publication, regardless of format, resulting from work performed under an HHS project must accompany the annual or final progress report submitted to CMS through its CMS PO.

During the project period and for six (6) months after completion of the project, the Recipient shall provide sixty (60) days prior notice to the CMS Project Officer of any formal presentation of any report or statistical or analytical material based on information obtained through this award. Formal presentation includes papers, articles, professional publication, speeches, and testimony. In the course of this research, whenever the Principal Investigator/Project Director determines that a significant new finding has been developed, he/she will communicate it to the CMS Project Officer before formal dissemination to the general public. The Recipient shall notify CMS of research conducted for publication.

- 18. Public Policy Requirements.** By signing the application, the authorized organizational official certifies that the organization will comply with applicable public policies. Once a grant is awarded, the recipient is responsible for establishing and maintaining the necessary processes to monitor its compliance and that of its employees and, as appropriate, subrecipients and contractors under the grant with these requirements. See Exhibit 3, Public Policy Requirements, Section II-3-5, in the HHS Grants Policy Statement, which contains information to help the Recipient determine what public policy requirements and objectives apply to its activities.
- 19. Implementation of United States v. Windsor and Interpretation of Familial Relationship Terminology.** In any grant-related activity in which family, marital, or household considerations are, by statute or regulation, relevant for purposes of determining beneficiary eligibility or participation, grantees must treat same-sex spouses, marriages, and households on the same terms as opposite-sex spouses, marriages, and households, respectively. By “same-sex spouses,” HHS means individuals of the same sex who have entered into marriages that are valid in the jurisdiction where performed, including any of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, or a U.S. territory or in a foreign country, regardless of whether or not the couple resides in a jurisdiction that recognizes same-sex marriage. By “same-sex marriages,” HHS means marriages between two individuals validly entered into in the jurisdiction where performed, including any of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, or a U.S. territory or in a foreign country, regardless of whether or not the couple resides in a jurisdiction that recognizes same-sex marriage. By “marriage,” HHS does not mean registered domestic partnerships, civil unions or similar formal relationships recognized under the law of the jurisdiction of celebration as something other than a marriage.
- 20. Green Procurement.** To mitigate the environmental impacts of acquisition of IT and other products/equipment, Recipients are encouraged to: (1) participate in “Green procurement” based on the HHS Affirmative Procurement Plan (www.hhs.gov/asfr/ogapa/acquisition/10-2010_hhs_affirmative_procurement_plan.doc) and similar guidance from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the President’s Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ); (2) use electronic products that are Energy Star® compliant and Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) Silver registered or higher when available; (3) activate Energy Star® features on all equipment when available; (4) use environmentally sound end-of-life management practices, including reuse, donation, sale and recycling of all electronic products.
- 21. Funding Opportunity Announcement.** All relevant project requirements outlined in the FOA apply to this award and are incorporated into these terms and conditions by reference.

- 22. Withdrawal.** If the Recipient decides to withdraw from this grant agreement program prior to the end of the project period, it must provide written notification (both hard copy and via email) to the CMS Grants Management Specialist at least fifteen (15) days in advance of the date of official withdrawal and termination of these terms. The letter must be signed by the AOR and other appropriate individuals with authority. CMS will not be liable for any withdrawal close-out costs that are borne by the Recipient. Recipients have three (3) days to return all unused grant funds.
- 23. Termination.** CMS may terminate this grant agreement, or any part hereof, if the Recipient materially fails to comply with the terms and conditions of this award, or provisions of law pertaining to agreement performance. Materially fails includes, but is not limited to, violation of the terms and conditions of the award; failure to perform award activities in a satisfactory manner; improper management or use of award funds; or fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement, or criminal activity. In addition, CMS may terminate this award if the Recipient fails to provide the Government, upon request, with adequate written and signed assurances of future performance. CMS will promptly notify the Recipient in writing of such termination and the reasons for it, together with the effective date. Recipient may terminate this award as set forth in 45 CFR 74.61(a)(3) or 45 CFR 92.44(b). In addition to termination, CMS may address material failure to comply with the terms and conditions of this award by taking such other action as set forth in 45 CFR 74.61 and 74.62 and in 45 CFR 92.43.
- 24. Bankruptcy.** In the event the Recipient or one of its sub-Recipients enters into proceedings relating to bankruptcy, whether voluntary or involuntary, the Recipient agrees to provide written notice of the bankruptcy to the CMS Grants Management Specialist and CMS PO. This written notice shall be furnished within five (5) days of the initiation of the proceedings relating to bankruptcy filing and sent to the CMS Grants Management Specialist and PO. This notice shall include the date on which the bankruptcy petition was filed, the identity of the court in which the bankruptcy petition was filed, a copy of any and all of the legal pleadings, and a listing of Government grant and cooperative agreement numbers and grant offices for all Government grants and cooperative agreements against which final payment has not been made.
- 25. Affirmative Duty to Track All Parties to the Award.** Recipient must at a minimum regularly track all parties to the award in both the GSA database that is known as the System for Award Management (SAM) and The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) List of Excluded Individuals and Entities (LEIE). The purpose of this affirmative duty is to track all parties that include health care, commercial, non-profit, and other people and entities in order to report immediately to the CMS Grants Management Specialist and CMS PO those that cannot participate in federal programs or receive federal funds. The Recipient cannot have any persons or entities on the award that cannot participate in federal programs or receive federal funds. If any of these systems are not publicly available, then the Recipient must comply with the purpose and intent of this requirement using a process that meets at least the level of scrutiny provided by these databases.

The Recipient shall provide the CMS PO with the NPI, Tax ID, and EIN, as applicable, of all Key Personnel and/or Entities to the award that may include Sub-Recipients. This list shall be provided to CMS within thirty (30) days from the start of the award and must be maintained up-to-date in real time throughout the award.

- 26. Sub-Recipient Equal Treatment.** The Recipient must comply with 45 CFR Part 87, including the provision that no State or local government Recipient nor any intermediate organization receiving funds under any program shall, in the selection of service providers, discriminate for or against an organization's religious character or affiliation.
- 27. Recipient's Responsibility for Sub-Recipients.** The Recipient is responsible for the performance, reporting, and spending for each Sub-Recipient. The Recipient will ensure the timeliness and accuracy of required reporting for each site of service and Sub-Recipient under the cooperative agreement. The Recipient is responsible for the performance and progress of each site of service or Sub-Recipient toward the goals and milestones of the program. The Recipient will take necessary corrective action for any site of service or Sub-Recipient that is not meeting the goals and milestones of the program, as set forth in the FOA.
- 28. Nondiscrimination.** The Recipient and Sub-Recipients will comply with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee- 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §§3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and, (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.
- 29. Reservation of Rights.** Nothing contained in this Agreement is intended or shall be construed as a waiver by the United States Department of Justice, the Internal Revenue Service, the Federal Trade Commission, HHS Office of the Inspector General, or CMS of any right to institute any proceeding or action against Recipient for violations of any statutes, rules or regulations administered by the Government, or to prevent or limit the rights of the Government to obtain relief under any other federal statutes or regulations, or on account of any violation of this Agreement or any other provision of law. The Agreement shall not be construed to bind any Government agency except CMS, and this Agreement binds CMS only to the extent provided herein. The failure by CMS to require performance of any provision shall not affect CMS's right to require performance at any time thereafter, nor shall a waiver of any breach or default result in a waiver of the provision itself.
- 30. Acceptance of Application & Terms of Agreement.** Initial drawdown of funds by the Recipient constitutes acceptance of this award.

- 31. FY 2014 Appropriations Provision.** Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Recipients must comply with all terms and conditions outlined in their grant awards, including grant policy terms and conditions contained in applicable HHS Grants Policy Statements, and requirements imposed by program statutes and regulations, Executive Orders, and HHS grant administration regulations, as applicable; as well as any requirements or limitations in any applicable appropriations acts.
- 32. Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014.** As stated in the above term and condition, this award is subject to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014. The following information specifically references major policy provisions in the Act impacting the HHS Grants Community which are new or have changed since the prior appropriations act. The information cited below will remain in effect until further modified, superseded, or rescinded.

Division H, Title II, Section 203 – Cap on Salaries

FY2014 Enacted Language: Sec. 203. None of the funds appropriated in this title shall be used to pay the salary of an individual, through a grant or other extramural mechanism, at a rate in excess of Executive Level II.

This salary cap applies to direct salaries and to those salaries covered under indirect costs, also known as facilities and administrative (F & A) costs. The current Executive Level II salary rate is \$181,500.

Division H, Title V, Section 528 – Pornography

Sec. 528(a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

Sec. 528(b) Nothing in this subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

**Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Standard Grant/Cooperative Agreement Terms and Conditions
Attachment A**

HHS Policy on Promoting Efficient Spending for Conferences and Meetings

It is the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) policy that conferences and meetings funded through grants and cooperative agreements: are consistent with legal requirements and HHS' missions, objectives, and policies; represent an efficient and effective use of taxpayer funds; and are able to withstand public scrutiny. A "conference" is defined as "[a] meeting, retreat, seminar, symposium or event that involves attendee travel."

Any conferences, with or without travel, that you believe are necessary to accomplish the purposes of this grant must have prior CMS approval. These requests must be priced separately in the budget and include the following information:

- (1) A description of its purpose;
- (2) The number of participants attending;
- (3) A detailed statement of the costs to the grant, including—
 - (A) The cost of any food or beverages;
 - (B) The cost of any audio-visual services for a conference;
 - (C) The cost of attendee travel to and from a conference (e.g. employee, subrecipient, consultant); and
 - (D) A discussion of the methodology used to determine which costs relate to a conference.

In addition, funds under this grant may not be used for the purpose of defraying the costs of a conference that is not directly and programmatically related to the purpose for which the grant is awarded (such as a conference held in connection with planning, training, assessment, review, or other routine purposes related to a project funded by the grant).

**Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Standard Grant/Cooperative Agreement Terms and Conditions
Attachment B**

Pilot Program for Enhancement of Whistleblower Protections

Grantees are hereby given notice that the 48 CFR section 3.908, implementing section 828, entitled “Pilot Program for Enhancement of Contractor Employee Whistleblower Protections,” of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 (Pub. L. 112-239, enacted January 2, 2013), applies to this award.

Federal Acquisition Regulations

As promulgated in the Federal Register, the relevant portions of 48 CFR section 3.908 read as follows (note that use of the term “contract,” “contractor,” “subcontract,” or “subcontractor” for the purpose of this term and condition, should be read as “grant,” “grantee,” “subgrant,” or “subgrantee”):

3.908 Pilot program for enhancement of contractor employee whistleblower protections

3.908-1 Scope of section.

- (a) This section implements 41 U.S.C. 4712.
- (b) This section does not apply to—
 - (1) DOD, NASA, and the Coast Guard; or
 - (2) Any element of the intelligence community, as defined in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)). This section does not apply to any disclosure made by an employee of a contractor or subcontractor of an element of the intelligence community if such disclosure-
 - (i) Relates to an activity of an element of the intelligence community; or
 - (ii) Was discovered during contract or subcontract services provided to an element of the intelligence community.

3.908-2 Definitions

As used in this section –

Abuse of authority means an arbitrary and capricious exercise of authority that is inconsistent with the mission of the executive agency concerned or the successful performance of a contract of such agency. Inspector General means an Inspector General appointed under the Inspector General Act of 1978 and any Inspector General that receives funding from, or has oversight over contracts awarded for, or on behalf of, the executive agency concerned.

3.908-3 Policy

1. Contractors and subcontractors are prohibited from discharging, demoting, or otherwise discriminating against an employee as a reprisal for disclosing, to any of the entities listed at paragraph (b) of this subsection, information that the employee reasonably believes is evidence of gross mismanagement of a Federal contract, a gross waste of Federal funds, an abuse of authority relating to a Federal contract, a substantial and specific danger to public health or

safety, or a violation of a law, rule, or regulation related to a Federal contract (including the competition for or negotiation of a contract). A reprisal is prohibited even if it is undertaken at the request of an executive branch official, unless the request takes the form of a non-discretionary directive and is within the authority of the executive branch official making the request.

2. Entities to whom disclosure may be made.

- (a) A Member of Congress or a representative of a committee of Congress.
- (b) An Inspector General.
- (c) The Government Accountability Office.
- (d) A Federal employee responsible for contract oversight or management at the relevant agency.
- (e) An authorized official of the Department of Justice or other law enforcement agency.
- (f) A court or grand jury.
- (g) A management official or other employee of the contractor or subcontractor who has the responsibility to investigate, discover, or address misconduct.

3. An employee who initiates or provides evidence of a contractor or subcontractor misconduct in any judicial or administrative proceeding relating to waste, fraud, or abuse on a Federal contract shall be deemed to have made a disclosure.

3.908-9 Contract clause.

The contracting officer shall insert the clause at 52.203-17, Contractor Employee Whistleblower Rights and Requirement to Inform Employees of Whistleblower Rights, in all solicitations and contracts that exceed the simplified acquisition threshold.

Contract clause:

Contractor Employee Whistleblower Rights and Requirement to Inform Employees of Whistleblower Rights

(2013)

- (a) This contract and employees working on this contract will be subject to the whistleblower rights and remedies in the pilot program on Contractor employee whistleblower protections established at 41 U.S.C. 4712 by section 828 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (Pub. L.112-239) and FAR 3.908.
- (b) The Contractor shall inform its employees in writing, in the predominant language of the workforce, of employee whistleblower rights and protections under 41 U.S.C. 4712, as described in section 3.908 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation.
- (c) The Contractor shall insert the substance of this clause, including this paragraph (c), in all subcontracts over the simplified acquisition threshold.

EFFECTIVE DATE: all grants and contracts issued on or after July 1, 2013 through January 1, 2017

The Health Insurance Rate Review Grant Program

Grants to States to Support Health Insurance Rate Review and Increase Transparency in the Pricing
of Medical Services,
Cycle IV

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Program Terms and Conditions

- 1. The HHS/CMS Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO) Program Official.** The Program Official assigned with responsibility for technical and programmatic questions from the Recipient is Susie Lorden (email is Susie.Lorden@cms.hhs.gov and telephone is 301-492-4162).
- 2. The HHS/CMS Grants Management Specialist.** The Grants Management Specialist assigned with responsibility for financial and administrative (non-programmatic) grant agreement questions from the Recipient is Iris Grady in the Division of Grants Management (email is Iris.Grady@cms.hhs.gov and telephone is 301-492-4321).
- 3. Statutory Authority.** This award is issued under the authority of Section 2794 of the Public Health Service Act. By receiving funds under this award, the Recipient assures CMS that it will carry out the program as authorized and will comply with the terms and conditions and other requirements of this award.
- 4. Budget and Project Period.** The budget and project period for the Health Insurance Rate Review Grant Program Cycle IV is September 19, 2014 to September 18, 2016.
- 5. Management Review/Audit.** The funding authorized by this award is paid subject to any periodic future financial management review or audit.
- 6. Personnel Changes.** The Recipient is required to notify the CMS Project Officer and the CMS Grants Management Specialist at least thirty (30) days before any personnel changes affecting the award's Authorized Organizational Representative, Project Director, Assistant Project Director, as well as any named Key Contractor staff.
- 7. Collaborative Responsibilities.** At the request of CCIIO, Grantees may be required to participate in scheduled activities and communications to identify and share "best practices" for health insurance premium review, including discussion of state proposals and sharing of information via public websites. CCIIO will post general summaries of the state proposals on the CCIIO website. Quarterly and Final reports may also be posted on the CCIIO website. The Grantee is required to participate in all required communications (e.g., monitoring calls, guidance calls) as requested by CCIIO.
- 8. Required Grant Agreement Programmatic Reporting.**
 - a. Requirement to Report Data to the Secretary.**

For Cycle IV, each grant awardee is required to provide certain rate filing data to the Secretary of Health and Human Services. As stated in the FOA, states are permitted to use grant funds to enhance their authority and capacity to collect and report the required rate filing data. The Rate Review Grant Program will continue to provide technical assistance to all state awardees and continue to work with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) System for Electronic Rate and Form Filing (SERFF) over the course of the grant period to fulfill the data reporting requirements. All rate filing data is required to be submitted through the Health Insurance Oversight System (HIOS), Rate Review Grant Reporting System.

CMS reserves the right to publicly release rate filing data submitted as part of the Rate Review Grant Program. CMS will release only information collected that is determined not to include regulated entity trade secrets, is approved for release under the same process used to determine release by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and complies with the state law that applies in the state in which the data was submitted.

b. Quarterly, Annual and Final Reports.

The Grantee is required to submit Progress Reports to the HHS/CMS Grants Management Specialist and to the HHS/CMS Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO) Project Officer based upon the timeline outlined below. **The Grantee is required to submit Quarterly Progress Reports, an Annual Report, and one Final Report electronically via HIOS.**

In each progress report (Quarterly, Annual and Final), the Grantee must describe the progress, and provide data on, the Grantee's efforts to enhance the rate review process and/or health pricing transparency, as appropriate. The Grantee will describe each activity performed in the quarter/year and how that activity was linked to enhanced rate review practices and/or health pricing transparency.

CMS reserves the right to require the grantee to provide additional details and clarification on the content of these reports.

Quarterly Progress Reports are due within 30 days after the end of the quarter. These reports must comply with the format provided in the attachment to the Notice of Award and these Standard and Program Terms and Conditions, the "*Health Insurance Rate Review Grant Program Cycle IV Quarterly Report Template.*" The first Quarterly Progress Report must include the beginning of the project period, from September 19, 2014 through the end of the Federal Fiscal Quarter, December 31, 2014.

Due Dates: January 30, 2015; April 30, 2015; July 30, 2015; October 30, 2015; January 30, 2016; April 30, 2016; July 30, 2016; October 30, 2016

Annual Progress reports are due within 90 days after the end of each annual year (or 12-month period). These reports must comply with the format provided in the attachment to the Notice of Award and these Standard and Program Terms and Conditions, the "*Health Insurance Rate Review Grant Program Cycle IV Annual Report Template.*"

Due Date: December 18, 2015

The Grantee is required to submit a Final Report to the HHS/CMS Project Officer and the HHS/CMS Grants Management Specialist within 90 days after the project period ending date. This report must comply with the format provided in the attachment to the Notice of Award and these Standard and Program Terms and Conditions: the “*Health Insurance Rate Review Grant Program Cycle IV, Final Report Template.*” The final Progress Report will serve as the Final Project Report and should report on work performed throughout the project period. This report is due no later than 90 days after the end of the project period.
Due Date: December 18, 2016

The final report will contain a disclaimer that the opinions expressed are those of the Recipient and do not necessarily reflect the official views of HHS or any of its agencies. The final progress report may not be released or published within the first four (4) months following the receipt of the report by the CMS Project Officer.

- 9. Required Financial Reports.** The Federal Financial Report (FFR or Standard Form 425) has replaced the SF-269, SF-269A, SF-272, and SF-272A financial reporting forms. All recipients must utilize the FFR to report cash transaction data, expenditures, and any program income generated.

Recipients must report on a quarterly basis cash transaction data via the Payment Management System (PMS) using the FFR in lieu of completing a SF-272/SF272A. The FFR, containing cash transaction data, is due within 30 days after the end of each quarter. The quarterly reporting due dates are as follows: 1/30, 4/30, 7/30, and 10/30. A Quick Reference Guide for completing the FFR in PMS is at:
www.dpm.psc.gov/grant_recipient/guides_forms/ffr_quick_reference.aspx.

In addition to submitting the quarterly FFR to PMS, Grantees must also provide, on an annual basis, a FFR to CMS which includes their expenditures and any program income generated in lieu of completing a Financial Status Report (FSR) (SF-269/269A). Expenditures and any program income generated should only be included on the annually submitted FFR, as well as the final FFR.

For the annual FFRs and final FFR (containing cash transaction data, expenditures, and any program income generated), Recipients must complete an online FFR form via the GrantSolutions.gov FFR module. GrantSolutions can be accessed via the following link <https://www.grantsolutions.gov>. The annual FFR must be submitted within 90 calendar days of the applicable year end date (or 12-month period). The final FFR must be submitted within 90 calendar days of the project period end date.

See below for due date for the **annual** FFR:

<i>Annual Period</i>	<i>Reporting Period Due Date</i>
September 19, 2014 to September 18, 2015	December 18, 2015

See below for the due date for the **final** FFR:

<i>Project Period</i>	<i>Reporting Period Due Date</i>
September 19, 2014 to September 18, 2016	Final report – 2 year reporting period September 19, 2014 to September 18, 2016 Due: December 18, 2016

Award recipients shall liquidate all obligations incurred under the award not later than 90 days after the end of the project period and before the final FFR submission. It is the award recipient’s responsibility to reconcile reports submitted to PMS and to CMS. Failure to reconcile final reports in a timely manner may result in canceled funds.

For additional guidance, please contact your Grants Management Specialist, Iris Grady.

Payment under this award will be made by the Department of Health and Human Services, Payment Management System administered by the Division of Payment Management (DPM), Program Support Center. Draw these funds against your account that has been established for this purpose. Inquiries regarding payment should be directed to:

**Director, Division of Payment Management
P. O. Box 6021
Rockville, Maryland 20852
Telephone Number 1-877-614-5533**

- 10. Data Center Requirements.** As outlined in the Cycle IV FOA in Appendix F, funds may be used to establish an optional data center as described in Section 2794 of the Public Health Service Act. All states choosing to use grants funds to support a data center must comply with the Conflict of Interest requirements established by Section 2794 of the Public Health Service Act.