

New York Health Benefit Exchange

In-Person Assistor/Navigator Invitation

The Affordable Care Act requires Exchanges to provide grants for In-Person Assistors (IPAs)/Navigators. IPAs/Navigators are organizations that provide individuals and small businesses in-person assistance to enroll in the Exchange, Medicaid and Child Health Plus.

The NYS Department of Health has issued a Request for Application for grants to be IPAs/Navigators.

Goals of the Selection Process:

- Provide grants valued at \$27 million annually, subject to availability of funding, to a diverse group of organizations that will provide high-quality enrollment assistance, in a manner that is linguistically and culturally appropriate and disability accessible to the populations being served;
- Provide “one-stop” consumer assistance for Exchange, Medicaid and Child Health Plus coverage;
- Ensure availability of assistors in all counties of the State; and
- Have IPAs/Navigators ready to provide assistance at open enrollment, October 1, 2013.

The RFA requires IPAs/Navigators to:

- Provide in-person assistance to those applying for health insurance coverage at the time of initial application and at annual renewal;
- Offer information on the types of health insurance programs available through the Exchange;
- Provide application assistance for public health insurance programs and advance premium tax credits and cost-sharing reductions;
- Refer consumers to other organizations for help with grievances, complaints or questions regarding health coverage or a determination related to coverage; and
- Supply information in a fair and impartial manner which is culturally and linguistically appropriate, and disability accessible, for those using the Exchange, including individuals with limited English proficiency.

Types of Organizations Eligible to Apply:

- Community and consumer-focused nonprofit organizations;
- Trade, industry, and professional associations;
- Commercial fishing industry organizations, ranching and farming organizations;
- Chambers of commerce;
- Unions;
- Resource partners of the Small Business Administration;
- Licensed agents and brokers that do not receive direct or indirect consideration from health insurers for enrolling individuals, small businesses, or small business employees in health plans or supplementary plans;
- Indian tribes, tribal organizations, urban Indian organizations; and
- Other public or private entities that meet the requirements of this RFA (see RFA for additional details).

Timeline

- Release Request for Applications: February 13, 2013
- Letters of Interest due: February 27, 2013 by 4pm, ET
- Questions due: February 27, 2013 by 4pm ET
- Updates and Q&As posted: On or about March 15, 2013
- Applications due: April 8, 2013 by 4pm ET
- Anticipated Notice of Award: July 1, 2013
- Anticipated Contract State Date: August 1, 2013
- Navigator/IPA Training/Certification: August/September, 2013
- Open Enrollment Begins: October 1, 2013