

The State of Vermont, Agency of Human Services (AHS), Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) intends to apply for a State Innovation Waiver under section 1332 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Section 1332 allows a state to apply for the waiver of certain ACA requirements with respect to health insurance coverage for plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2017.

DVHA is requesting a waiver of the ACA requirement that the State build an Internet portal for employers to enroll in health insurance coverage. The waiver would maintain the status quo by allowing Vermont businesses to enroll in qualified health plans directly through a health insurance issuer instead of through an Internet portal.

DVHA's proposal addresses the section 1332 standards as follows:

- Equivalent or greater scope of coverage: Vermont's proposal will maintain seamless coverage for all small employers currently covered while allowing streamlined access for large employers in 2018.
- Equivalent or greater affordability of coverage: Vermont's proposal will provide coverage that is as affordable as current plans by requiring enrollment in QHPs subject to rigorous rate review oversight.
- Equivalent comprehensiveness of coverage: Vermont's proposal will maintain coverage with the same essential health benefits as provided today.
- Deficit neutral: Vermont's proposal will not increase the federal deficit because it will maintain its current enrollment system and funding mechanism.

DVHA's waiver application can be found at:

<http://dvha.vermont.gov/administration/11332-draft-waiver-app-for-public-comment.pdf>. It can also be requested from local Department for Children and Families (DCF) District Offices or by calling (802) 585-4285.

DVHA seeks public comment on this proposal. Public Hearings will be held on Monday, 2/22/2016, from 3-4pm following the Medicaid and Exchange Advisory Board Meeting at the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA), 312 Hurricane Lane, Suite 201, Williston, VT 05495 (call in number: 1-877-273-4202, Guest Pin # 8327340), and on Thursday, 2/25/2016 from 3-4pm in the Cherry Conference Room at the Department of Vermont Health Access, NOB 1 South, 280 State Dr., Waterbury, VT 05671 (call in number: 1-877-273-4202, Guest Pin #229150318). **Written comments on the proposal are due 3/11/2016 by 4:30pm.** Written comments should be sent via email to AHS.MedicaidPolicy@vermont.gov or by mail to Dani Fuoco at 280 State Dr., Waterbury, VT 05671-1000. Comments received will be posted to the DVHA website for viewing by 4:30pm on 3/22/2016.

If you need special accommodations to participate in the public hearing, please notify Dani Fuoco at (802) 585-4265.