



HIV/AIDS Bureau

MAR 27 2013

Dear Grantee:

Under the health insurance law, also known as the Affordable Care Act, insurance plans offered through the Marketplace—known as Qualified Health Plans (QHPs)—are required to include some essential community providers (ECPs). ECPs are providers that serve predominately low-income medically underserved individuals. This definition includes Ryan White HIV/AIDS providers.

On March 26, 2013, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight posted a “non-exhaustive list” of ECPs to assist health insurance issuers in locating ECPs: <http://cciio.cms.gov/programs/exchanges/qhp.html>.

Issuers will be permitted to write in ECPs not on the list. We are aware that for logistical reasons some of our newer grantees are not included on this list, so when you contact insurers you should let them know you are an ECP and that they can write you in.

QHPs are finalizing their networks in the next few months, but are **NOT REQUIRED** to include all safety net providers in their networks. It is strongly recommended that direct service providers reach out to health insurers now if you want to get into their networks for 2014.

The Department of Health and Human Services expects to monitor inclusion of ECPs in QHP provider network(s) over time, including providers that issuers write in, and will update this database in future years. Questions about the database may be directed to: essentialcommunityproviders@cms.hhs.gov.

For more information on the definition of ECP and health insurer requirements regarding ECPs, see CMS’ “Letter to Issuers on Federally-facilitated and State Partnership Exchanges,” available at <http://www.cciio.cms.gov/resources/files/issuer-letter-3-1-2013.pdf>.

For more information on Ryan White and the Affordable Care Act, please visit www.hab.hrsa.gov/affordablecareact (scroll to the bottom of the page for a link to the list).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Laura W. Cheever".

for Laura W. Cheever, M.D., ScM
Acting Associate Director and
Chief Medical Officer