

Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight

**State Planning and Establishment Grants for the
Affordable Care Act's Exchanges**

Quarterly Project Report

Date: Jan. 25, 2012

State: North Dakota

Project Title: State Planning and Establishment Grants for the Affordable Care Act's Exchanges

Project Quarter Reporting Period: Quarter E2 (1/1/2012–1/25/2012)

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Project Summary

North Dakota was awarded a \$1 million grant Sept. 30, 2010. The North Dakota Legislative Assembly passed [House Bill 1126](#), granting the Insurance Department permission to spend the grant funds beginning July 1, 2011.

The Insurance Department issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) July 18 to hire a consultant to provide Exchange research and planning services for the State of North Dakota. The intent of the contract is to provide research and analysis on Exchange governance options, the state's uninsured population, the state's insurance marketplace, Exchange financial modeling, and communication and outreach, with the ultimate goal of recommending a viable plan for developing and sustaining a Health Benefit Exchange in North Dakota. Five proposals were received. The contract was awarded to HTMS, an Emdeon company based out of Indianapolis, on Aug. 19, 2011.

HTMS provided its initial research findings to the Department on Sept. 30. The final report was sent to the Department on Dec. 5, 2011.

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HTMS traveled to North Dakota three times during the term of the contract, with the majority of its time on-site spent conducting face-to-face interviews with various agency representatives and other stakeholders and conducting research.

The North Dakota Legislative Assembly held a special session Nov. 7-11, 2011, to determine whether the state will run its own Exchange and, if so, how it will be governed. A bill that would have established a state-run Exchange (HB 1474) failed to pass the House. HTMS representatives were on site during the special session.

The Insurance Department has requested that the remainder of the planning grant funds be transferred to the North Dakota Department of Human Services.