

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE  
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

*P.O. Box 40002 ♦ Olympia, Washington 98504-0002 ♦ (360) 753-6780 ♦ TTY/TDD (360) 753-6466*

July 10, 2012

Mike Hash, Acting Director  
Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
200 Independence Avenue SW, Suite 739H  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Mr. Hash:

This is to inform you of Washington State's ongoing commitment to develop and operate a state-based health benefit exchange consistent with the authority and requirements of the Affordable Care Act.

In 2011, I signed bipartisan legislation directing the establishment of Washington's Exchange. This was followed in 2012 by additional legislation to further address important operational details. Set up as a quasi-governmental entity, the Exchange is governed by an eleven-member board that has met regularly since its formation last December and is fully vested in the success of the Exchange and in meeting the demanding timelines of the ACA.

Our effort continues to benefit substantially from the guidance and assistance provided by the federal government. In particular, the recently awarded \$128 million Level II establishment grant will support the staffing and IT infrastructure necessary to complete the remaining design and development work, and the subsequent operation of the Exchange through December 2014.

I am confident we are on a path which will have our Exchange open for business next year, and that we will soon initiate the process for formal approval by HHS.

Sincerely,

Christine O. Gregoire  
Governor