September 23, 2021

Ms. Megan Garratt-Reed
Acting Director
Maine Health Benefit Exchange (CoverME)
109 Capitol Street
11 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Ms. Garratt-Reed,

I am pleased to inform you that the State of Maine has received conditional approval to establish a State-based Exchange (SBE). Congratulations to CoverME on reaching this significant milestone on the path to establishing a State-based Exchange for the residents of Maine.

Conditional approval reflects the progress the CoverME has made in demonstrating its readiness as an SBE to provide affordable, quality coverage for consumers for plan year 2022. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has reached this decision based on Maine's Blueprint attestations, progress to date, and expected progress across the entire spectrum of Exchange requirements, and is contingent upon the following conditions:

1. Continued demonstration of the ability to perform required Exchange activities in line with the attestations Maine has made in its State-based Exchange Blueprint Application submission. Please find appended to this letter, a chart summarizing CMS' assessment of CoverME's progress around key SBE transition activities;
2. Continued compliance with federal regulations and completion of remaining progress milestones by Maine.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with the State of Maine and are committed to providing your team our ongoing support and technical assistance to help CoverME succeed.

Thank you,

Ellen Montz
Deputy Administrator and Director
Center for Consumer Information & Insurance
Oversight Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Attachment: Maine (CoverME) - Status of Key SBE Transition Activities

ATTACHMENT: Maine (CoverME) - Status of Key SBE Transition Activities

Key Functional Area	State Progress
Federal Data Services Hub (HUB) Authority to Connect (ATC)	- CoverME.gov received approval of its final Security Safeguard Report (SSR) from IRS on 08/12/21. - CoverME.gov received ATC from CMS on 08/16/21.
Federal Data Services Hub (HUB) Testing	CoverME.gov completed all HUB testing on 9/20/21.
Plan Management	All PY 2022 QHP plans were loaded onto CoverME.gov and are being reviewed by carriers for accuracy.
Eligibility and Enrollment	- CoverME.gov submitted its single, streamlined eligibility application for CMS review and approval under 45 CFR 155.405(b) for consistency with applicable eligibility standards in 45 CFR part 155, subpart D. - CoverME.gov demonstrated eligibility functionality through three Operational Readiness Review (ORR) meetings with CMS on 5/18/21, 6/28/21 and 7/12/21. - CoverME.gov will address the following open items identified through CMS' reviews: - Prior to Open Enrollment - CoverME.gov to implement changes to eligibility application in order for applicants to complete an eligibility application and receive an eligibility determination without being required to provide detailed citizenship and immigration documentation information, in accordance with 42 CFR 435.406, 435.407(b)(2), 435.952(a)-(b) and 435.956(b). - Post-Open Enrollment - CoverME.gov to have available full Special Enrollment eligibility determination functionality required under 45 CFR 155.420.
Consumer Assistance	- CoverME.gov executed the contract with their call center vendor on 6/28/21. - CoverME.gov provided a walk-through of its consumer-facing Exchange website and its plans for implementing its Exchange call center to CMS on 7/26/21, and is on track to launch their Exchange website and call center prior to Open Enrollment. - CMS and CoverME.gov have established a coordinated consumer communication plan and transition calendar, and is finalizing consumer notice language and call center scripts with CMS.