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Department of Vermont Health Access
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Vermont's Exchange Releases Request for Qualified Health Plan Proposals from Insurance Issuers

WILLISTON –On November 1, 2012, the Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA) released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to invite health insurance organizations to formally express interest in selling Qualified Health Plans (QHP) on Vermont's health benefit exchange, Vermont Health Connect. Vermont Health Connect is a marketplace for individuals, families, and small businesses to compare and purchase qualified private health insurance plans, determine eligibility for and enroll in public health insurance plans, and access federal tax credits. Open enrollment begins in October 2013 and health plans will go into effect on January 1, 2014.

Insurance issuers who respond to the RFP will submit QHP proposals to the State in January 2013 and associated rates will be filed in mid-March 2013. The State will then have an opportunity to assess the quality of these proposals and ensure the offerings both align with federal and state statute and offer meaningful choices to Vermonters. The selected QHPs and rates will be available to the public in July 2013.

DVHA Commissioner Mark Larson said, "This RFP is open to all health insurance organizations licensed in Vermont that are interested in providing health coverage to individuals and small businesses through Vermont Health Connect. Insurance issuers must offer six state-specified "standard" plan designs and have the option of developing innovative "choice" plans, within set parameters."

The Department of Financial Regulation (DFR) will review the QHP submissions by adhering to the existing regulatory rate review and form review process. DFR's Commissioner will submit the department's rate recommendations to the Green Mountain Care Board for review. Following this oversight process, DVHA's Commissioner will select the QHPs that will be offered through Vermont Health Connect.

DFR Commissioner Steve Kimbell said, "Because of the work done to date, we are confident that the submitted QHPs will prioritize low cost-sharing for primary care services and generic drugs, offer a clear range of choices, and allow portability—giving individuals consistent coverage options regardless of their employment situation."

Issuers will submit QHP proposals using the Summary of Benefits and Coverage (SBC) template developed by the federal government to ensure that health insurance plan components are presented in a clear, consistent manner.

Through this RFP process, Vermonters will have access to premium rates for plans offered on Vermont Health Connect. This information is essential for individuals, families and small businesses as they make their health coverage decisions.

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