

Implementation Center

Affordable Care Act in Your State: Tennessee

Since enactment of the Affordable Care Act on March 23, 2010, the Department of Health and Human Services has awarded \$168.9 million in new grant funding available in Tennessee, and helped many residents and employers take more control of their health care – from new patient protections to new coverage options.*

- **86,685 Medicare Part D “Donut Hole” Rebate Checks:** In Tennessee, 86,685 Medicare beneficiaries have received a one time, tax free \$250 rebate to help pay for prescriptions in the ‘donut hole’ coverage gap. In 2011, beneficiaries will receive a 50 percent discount for covered brand-name prescriptions in the donut hole.
- **255 Uninsured Tennessee Residents Enrolled in the [Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan](#):** This plan provides a health coverage option for consumers who have been uninsured for at least six months, have a pre-existing condition or have been denied health coverage because of their health condition, and are a U.S. citizen or are residing here legally. In Tennessee, the Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan is operated by the Federal government.
- **\$580,000 to Support a [Consumer Assistance Program](#):** On September 30, 2010, HHS awarded new Consumer Assistance Program grants to help strengthen and enhance ongoing efforts in the States and local communities to protect consumers from some of the worst insurance industry practices. The Department of Commerce and Insurance, Consumer Insurance Services Section in Tennessee will receive \$580,000 to:
 - Dedicate two investigators to deal with health insurance issues.
 - Train existing Consumer Education Specialists in the requirements of the Affordable Care Act.
 - Provide outreach and education to consumers on their rights under the Affordable Care Act.
 - Contract with a qualified non-profit organization to provide assistance to consumers.
 - Provide a toll-free telephone line and web-based access, including suitable access for people with limited English proficiency, the hearing impaired, and those with mental health and substance abuse issues.
 - Collect and report data as required by the grant.
 - Partner with the TN SHIP to provide walk-in assistance for consumers and through the telephone hotline.
- **\$1 million to [Crack Down on Unreasonable Insurance Premium Increases](#):** Tennessee will use the \$1 million in grant funding made available to:
 - **Additional Legislative Authority:** Tennessee requires prior approval of individual rates only. Grant funding will be used to develop language to expand the review and to provide authority to disapprove submitted rates.
 - **Expand the Scope of Health Insurance Premium Review:** The State will expand requirements to include both small and large group findings.
 - **Improve the Health Insurance Premium Review Process:** Currently the State requires prior approval of individual rates only. Grant funds will be used for improvements to information systems and electronic data capture.
 - **Make More Information Publicly Available:** Currently the department provides access to rate filings upon request and posts a spreadsheet on their website displaying rate changes.

Grant funds will be used to hold monthly public hearings and consumer meetings, as well as publish information on the web.

- **\$1 million to Plan for a [Health Insurance Exchange](#):** These grants will give States the resources they need to conduct the research and planning needed to build a better health insurance marketplace and determine how their Exchanges will be operated and governed. Tennessee will use these funds to:
 - Provide major deliverables include policy briefs, legal analyses and contractor studies, including a study on whether to merge the small group and individual markets.
 - Analyze Tennessee's resources and capabilities, with significant additional time spent on program integration and business operations.
- **93 Employers Enrolled in [Early Retiree Reinsurance Program](#):** The Early Retiree Reinsurance Program (ERRP) provides much-needed financial relief to businesses, schools and other educational institutions, unions, State and local governments, and non-profits, in order to help retirees and their families continue to have quality, affordable health coverage. Find a list of organizations accepted into this program in your state [here](#).
- **\$6.7 million in Therapeutic Discovery Project Program Tax Credits and Grants:** This program was created by the Affordable Care Act to support groundbreaking biomedical research to produce new therapies, address unmet medical needs, reduce the long-term growth of health care costs and advance the goal of curing cancer within the next 30 years. In Tennessee, this program will support 30 projects that show significant potential to produce new and cost-saving therapies, support good jobs, and increase U.S. competitiveness. This program is operated by the U.S. Department of Treasury, and a full list of small businesses participating in this program is available [here](#).
- **\$10.37 Million in Grants from the Prevention and Public Health Fund:** The Affordable Care Act creates a new Prevention and Public Health Fund to prevent illness and promote health, so that all Americans can lead longer, more productive lives. This year, the Fund supported programs across Tennessee, including:
 - \$321,123 for community and clinical prevention activities, which will help Tennessee and its partners prevent and manage costly conditions.
 - \$2,436,927 to support public health infrastructure. These grants strengthen State and local capacity to meet 21st century public health challenges.
 - \$7,607,398 invested in primary care training, to expand and support Tennessee's primary care workforce.
- **Other Grants Made Available in Tennessee:**
 - **\$3.1 million** for Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Programs
 - **\$600,000** for Medicare improvements for patients and providers
 - **\$24.4 million** to support capital development in health centers
 - **\$1.4 million** for the Pregnancy Assistance Fund Program
 - **\$119.6 million** for Money Follows the Person demonstration project

* The list is a selection of programs funded by the Affordable Care Act and does not add up to the total Affordable Care Act funding for the State.

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