

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 15, 2013

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Katrina McGivern
Communications Coordinator
Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved
1129 South Kansas Ave, Suite B
Topeka, KS 66612
(785)233-8483 office
(785) 633-8273 cell
kmcgivern@kspca.org

KAMU Awarded Federal Navigator Grant

Money used for Outreach and Enrollment in Health Insurance Marketplace

Topeka—The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) have awarded the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved (KAMU) a Federal Navigator Grant of \$524,846 to be used for training Navigators as part of outreach and enrollment for the Health Insurance Marketplace. CMS granted a total of \$67 million to 105 entities to serve in the 34 Federally-facilitated and State Partnership Marketplaces.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) will create a competitive private health insurance market through the creation of Health Insurance Marketplaces. Kansans will access the federal marketplaces, which launch October 1, 2014, and will provide millions of Americans and small businesses with “one-stop shopping” for affordable coverage.

Navigators are trained volunteers that will assist Americans enrolling in private insurance, as well as Medicaid, through the insurance marketplace.

KAMU will serve as the lead agency and grantee for the Kansas Marketplace Consortium, which also includes the Kansas Hospital Education and Research Foundation, Kansas Insurance Department, Kansas Association of Local Health Departments, Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas, and the Kansas Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities (which operates the volunteer-based Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas - SCHICK). Combined, this Consortium represents 427 safety net clinic, health department, hospital, Community Mental Health Center and Area Agency on Aging locations throughout Kansas.

The Kansas Marketplace Consortium’s goals are to recruit, train and retain at least 250 Certified Navigators to be located throughout the state and to provide Navigator assistance to at least 48,000 eligible Kansans. The geographic area served will include the entire state of Kansas.

The project will coincide with a Kansas Insurance Department (KID) education and marketing campaign using mass media, Internet support and brochures/pamphlets available to consortium

members. KID will maintain its Consumer Assistance Division which can provide individuals with additional information related to health insurance coverage in Kansas.

###

The Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved (KAMU), the Primary Care Association (PCA) for Kansas, supports and strengthens its member organizations through advocacy, education, and communication. KAMU represents a diverse group of organizations and membership including public and private nonprofit primary care clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), local health departments, rural health clinics, and private individuals who have a keen interest in service for Kansas' underserved populations. As the PCA, KAMU is charged with providing training, technical assistance, and advocacy on behalf of federally funded FQHCs.

KAMU's vision is to grow and strengthen the clinics so that all Kansans will have a health care home.