



May 2008

Dear *INM!* Certified Agents and Brokers,

This e-mail newsletter is designed to keep you informed- *Insure New Mexico's* new website will be operational soon! The website will feature a calendar of events for brokers and small employers as well as tools to assist with enrollment and our video and PowerPoint presentation on *Insure New Mexico! (INM!)* programs for brokers. We will send you a link as soon as it is available.

UPDATES and NEWS:

(excerpted from a recent press release)

The New Mexico Human Services Department is one of 15 institutions nationwide to receive a *Robert Wood Johnson Foundation State Health Access Reform Evaluation (SHARE) 2008 Grant* and is the only state agency awarded the grant. New Mexico is among good company, as the other awardees are prestigious universities and think tank groups.

Of the \$5 million SHARE grant total, New Mexico has been awarded nearly \$200,000 to examine small employers who have participated in the State Coverage Insurance (SCI) program, and those who have decided not to participate and why.

The SCI program is a public/private partnership health coverage plan for uninsured adults ages 19 to 64, designed to help New Mexico small employers with affordable health coverage for their employees. The program currently covers nearly 17,000 adults with approximately 700 small employer groups participating. The SCI program began in 2005.

“This study will help New Mexico determine why some small employers find the SCI program a beneficial health coverage plan for their employees and why some employers choose not to participate,” said Pamela Hyde, HSD Secretary. “As we find answers to those questions for New Mexico’s benefit, this study will also have a national significance as states look at programs like SCI to help them with answers for helping the uninsured adults in their state.”

HSD is partnering with The Hilltop Institute (formerly the Center for Health Program Development and Management) at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC), who will perform the evaluation. “As a long-time research contractor with New Mexico, UMBC recognized that the SCI program was the perfect program to be evaluated by the SHARE grant,” said Charles Milligan, J.D. MPH, Hilltop’s Executive Director. “We look forward to learning what factors influence employer participation in SCI.”

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation notified Governor Richardson last month that the HSD was awarded the SHARE grant for a total of \$195,855 to be used beginning this month through October 31, 2009.

More details about the SHARE grant and the grant awardees can be found at <http://www.statereformevaluation.org/Home-5341.html>.

- *INM!* believes that understanding why employers take up SCI is a critical factor to ensure its continued success. Brokers play a large role in the success of the program, and *INM!* is hopeful that many of you will be able to participate in our study.
- We appreciate your understanding and flexibility in regard to the changes made in processing of individual applications. Remember that the *INM!* Group Enrollment Center remains a valuable resource for brokers. We support you in providing the best possible service to your clients and their employees. If you need further training and/or assistance about enrolling employer groups, please do not hesitate to contact the center at either **827-3130 or 827-7713** or email **INMGroups.HSD@state.nm.us**.
- *Insure New Mexico!* appreciates its partnership with agents and brokers around the state to implement initiatives to reduce the number of uninsured individuals and looks forward to continuing to work together to optimize limited resources while continuing to improve the lives of New Mexicans.