

that have qualified high risk pools that meet the specific requirements described in § 148.310. It also provides specific instructions on how to apply for the grants and outlines the grant review and grant award processes.

§ 148.308 Definitions.

For the purposes of this subpart, the following definitions apply:

CMS stands for Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Loss means the difference between expenses incurred by a qualified high risk pool, including payment of claims and administrative expenses, and the premiums collected by the pool.

Qualified high risk pool means a high risk pool that meets the conditions described in § 148.128(a)(2)(ii):

(1) It provides to all eligible individuals, as defined in § 148.103, health insurance coverage (or comparable coverage) that does not impose any preexisting condition exclusion or affiliation periods for coverage of an eligible individual; and

(2) Provides for premium rates and covered benefits for the coverage consistent with the standards included in the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) Model Health Plan for Uninsurable Individuals Act (as in effect as of August 21, 1996) but only if the model has been revised in State regulations to meet all of the requirements of this part and title 27 of the PHS Act.

Standard risk rate means a rate developed by a State using reasonable actuarial techniques and taking into account the premium rates charged by other insurers offering health insurance coverage to individuals in the same geographical service area to which the rate applies. The standard rate may be adjusted based upon age, sex, and geographical location.

§ 148.310 Eligibility requirements for a grant.

A State must meet all of the following requirements to be eligible for a grant:

(a) The State has a qualified high risk pool as defined in § 148.308.

(b) The pool restricts premiums charged under the pool to no more than 150 percent of the premium for applicable standard risk rates for the State.

(c) The pool offers a choice of two or more coverage options through the pool.

(d) The pool has in effect a mechanism reasonably designed to ensure continued funding of losses incurred by the State after the end of fiscal year 2004 in connection with the operation of the pool.

(e) The pool has incurred a loss in a period described in § 148.314.

§ 148.312 Amount of grant payment.

(a) An eligible State may receive a grant to fund up to 50 percent of the losses incurred in the operation of its qualified high risk pool during the period for which it is applying.

(b) Funds will be allocated to each eligible State in accordance with the following formula:

(1) The number of uninsured individuals is calculated for each eligible State by taking a 3-year average of the number of uninsured individuals in that State in the Current Population Survey (CPS) of the Census Bureau. For grants based upon State fiscal years 2002 and 2003, a 3-year average will be calculated using numbers available as of May 1, 2003. For grants based upon State fiscal year 2004, a 3-year average will be calculated using numbers available as of March 1, 2005. Calculation of the State 3-year average will be done by the Census Bureau and provided to CMS.

(2) Based upon the CPS numbers, the State's percentage of the total uninsured population of eligible States is calculated and then multiplied by \$40 million to determine the State's maximum allotment for the fiscal year in question. The following example illustrates the formula in paragraph (b):

(i) The most current 3-year average of uninsured individuals in State A is one million, and the 3-year average of uninsured individuals for all eligible States is 10 million. State A has 10 percent of the uninsured population of the eligible States.

(ii) Under this example, State A's allotment would be 10 percent of \$40 million, or \$4 million, for the fiscal year in question.

(c) The amount awarded to each eligible State will be the lesser of the 50 percent of losses incurred by its qualified risk pool for the fiscal year in question or its allotment under the formula.

§ 148.314 Periods during which eligible States may apply for a grant.

(a) *General Rule.* A State that meets the eligibility requirements in § 148.310 may apply for a grant to fund losses that were incurred during the State's fiscal year 2002, 2003, or 2004 in connection with the operation of its qualified high risk pool. A State may apply for losses incurred in a partial fiscal year if a partial year audit is done.

(b) *Maximum number of grants.* An eligible State may only be awarded a maximum of two grants, with one grant per fiscal year. A grant for a partial fiscal year counts as a full grant.

(c) *Deadline for submitting grant applications.* The deadlines for

submitting grant applications are stated in § 148.316(d).

(d) *Initial distribution of grant funds.* States that meet all of the eligibility requirements in § 148.310 and submit timely requests in accordance with paragraph (c) of this section will receive an initial distribution of grant funds using the following methodology:

(1) *Initial grant applications submitted for losses incurred in State fiscal year 2002 (hereafter referred to as 02 States).* Initial grants to States that submit an application for losses incurred in State fiscal year 2002 will be funded with Federal fiscal year 2003 funds.

(2) *Initial grant applications submitted for losses incurred in State fiscal year 2003 (hereafter referred to as 03 States).* Initial grants to States that did not submit an application for losses in State fiscal year 2002 (or submitted an application but did not qualify) and first qualified for a grant for losses incurred in State fiscal year 2003 will be funded with Federal fiscal year 2003 funds.

(3) *Initial grant allocations.* Initial grant allocations will be determined by taking all grant applications described in paragraphs (d)(1) and (2) of this section, and allocating in accordance with § 148.312.

(4) *Other applications.* All other grants will be funded in the first instance with Federal fiscal year 2004 funds.

(e) *Reallocation of funds.* The initial grants to the 02 States and the 03 States will come from the Federal fiscal year 2003 funds. After the deadline for 02 grants, the Department will determine how many States have submitted applications for grants. The Department will then estimate, based on contacts with other States, how many requests are likely to be received from 03 States. The Department will make an initial allotment for 02 States based on these estimates. The Department will reserve some of the Federal fiscal year 2003 funds after the 02 States grant requests have been received in anticipation of requests being made by 03 States. The Department will hold in reserves adequate funds to provide full allotments to these States. If there are excess reserves (that is, the Department withholds more money than was necessary to provide grants to the 03 States), the excess funds will be proportionally redistributed to the 02 States and the 03 States, but not to exceed 50 percent of losses incurred by the States. The size of the first year grants will be increased retroactively for these States. Similarly, the Department will reserve some of the Federal fiscal