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Seedco Awarded 1.4 Million Navigator Grant to Continue to Help Tennesseans Access Health Insurance

Seedco has been awarded a second-year grant of $1,407,172 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to provide healthcare consumer assistance in Tennessee.

Seedco will continue to lead a state-wide consortium of 7 partners that will conduct outreach and education activities to help make Tennesseans aware of new health insurance options and of the benefits of being insured. The second-year funding from CMS will support navigators throughout Tennessee who will be trained to provide consumers with in-person assistance in a culturally competent manner, to inform consumers about the Health Insurance Marketplace, qualified health plans, Medicaid and TennCare for Families and Children. Navigators are trained to help consumers select the health insurance option that is best for themselves and their families and to help consumers understand how to use their insurance. In addition, navigators will assist consumers in determining if they are eligible for federal tax credits to subsidize the cost of health insurance.

Seedco is a national non-profit with a Mid-South base in Memphis that advances economic opportunity for people, businesses and communities in need. In addition to Tennessee, Seedco operates Navigator programs in Georgia, Maryland and New York. The grant will build on Seedco's extensive experience providing access to public and private benefits, and leading and managing networks of partners. "We are grateful to the Department of Health and Human Services for recognizing the high quality work we did in the first year of the grant and continuing to fund our coalition" said Barbara Gunn, Seedco's President, "We look forward to working with all of the members of Get Covered Tennessee again to reach the a diverse array of uninsured Tennesseans," add Executive Vice President for Programs Ben Thomases.

The following organizations are members of the consortium of healthcare consumer assistance providers in Tennessee that received the grant award:

- Appalachian Mountain Project Access
- Community Development Council
- Easter Seals
- Family and Children's Services
- Knoxville Area Project Access
- Medical Foundation of Chattanooga
- Porter Leath

As the leader of the consortium, Seedco will continue to directly employ several navigators statewide and oversee all aspects of the program, providing technical assistance, financial oversight, privacy and compliance protocols and strategic coordination for the partners. Each member of the partnership has a

strong history of providing services to populations in Tennessee that are likely to be uninsured. Seedco will continue to build on the capacity of their vast network of strategically situated affiliates and will add new organizations and referral sources to its web of community –based organizations, academic institutions, government agencies, and private companies, ensuring a broad and deep coverage of target communities in its second year of the grant.

Media Contact:
Phaon K. Spurlock, Marketing and Communications Associate, External Affairs
Seedco
pspurlock@seedco.org
917-338-9257