

Katherine Sapra
Acting Deputy Director
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
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RE: SOUTH DAKOTA'S SUBMISSION OF RURAL HEALTH
TRANSFORMATION GRANT CMS-RHT-26-001

Ms. Sapra,

South Dakota submitted a Rural Health Transformation Grant and the Grant was recently approved. We wrote to request CMS' assistance in protecting grant design information within the grant. We have attached a letter sent to a requestor for all the documents submitted to CMS. We are attempting to protect the design of the grant because if that information is released, we think the competitive bid process for the services to fulfill the grant will be compromised.

We anticipate that vendors may seek our full submission to CMS through the Freedom of Information Act. We know the federal government must comply with the provision of the Freedom of Information Act; but, we hope CMS' interpretation of the act can preserve the information that South Dakota submitted.

If there are questions we can answer to assist in this process should CMS receive an FOIA request our office may be contacted.

Respectfully,

Howard Pallotta
General Counsel