FEHB Program Carrier Letter Experience-rated Carriers

U.S. Office of Personnel Management Insurance Services Programs

Letter No. 2009-13 Date: July 9, 2009

Fee-for-service [9] Experience-rated HMO [9] Community-rated HMO [n/a]

SUBJECT: Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act

This Carrier Letter provides information on the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA), Public Law No. 109-282. Under FFATA, procurement information regarding Federal contracts, purchase orders, task orders and delivery orders above \$25,000 made to individuals and/or companies must be made accessible at www.usaspending.gov dating to fiscal year 2007. Therefore, carriers' administrative costs exceeding \$25,000 for the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance (FEGLI) Program and the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program contracts will be posted directly to the FFATA website.

FAR 4.603(b) states, "executive agencies shall use Federal Procurement Data System Next Generation (FPDS-NG) to maintain publicly available information about all contract actions exceeding the micropurchase threshold and any modifications to those actions that change previously reported contract action report data, regardless of dollar value." Specific data in FPDS-NG transfers to the FFATA website in order to make it publicly accessible in accordance with FAR 4.603(a).

According to the FAR 4.11, prospective vendors must be registered in the Central Contracting Register (CCR) prior to the award of a contract, basic agreement, basic ordering agreement or blanket purchase agreement. We have amended the 2009 FEHB standard contracts to incorporate Central Contractor Registration (Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 52.204-7). To register in CCR, as indicated in FAR 52.204-7, a firm must have a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number. The number is assigned by Dun and Bradstreet Inc. (D&B) to identify unique business entities. The DUNS number assignment is free for all businesses required to register with the Federal government for contracts or grants. Additional information can be viewed at www.ccr.gov.

Please send your DUNS number to Florence Steinman at <u>Florence.steinman@opm.gov</u> within 45 days of the date on this letter. Once we have received your DUNS number, OPM will develop a process to transfer carriers' administrative costs for FEGLI and FEHB Federal benefits contracts data directly to the FFATA website.

If you have any questions, please contact Florence Steinman at <u>Florence.steinman@opm.gov</u> or by phone at 202-606-2084. Thanks in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Kay T. Ely Associate Director for Human Resources Products and Services