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SUBCHAPTER I—IMMEDIATE ACTIONS TO
PRESERVE AND EXPAND COVERAGE

§ 18001. Immediate access to insurance for uninsured individuals with a preexisting condition

(a) In general

Not later than 90 days after March 23, 2010, the Secretary shall establish a temporary high risk health insurance pool program to provide health insurance coverage for eligible individuals during the period beginning on the date on which such program is established and ending on January 1, 2014.

(b) Administration

(1) In general

The Secretary may carry out the program under this section directly or through contracts to eligible entities.

(2) Eligible entities

To be eligible for a contract under paragraph (1), an entity shall—

- (A) be a State or nonprofit private entity;
(B) submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require; and
(C) agree to utilize contract funding to establish and administer a qualified high risk pool for eligible individuals.

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(3) Maintenance of effort

To be eligible to enter into a contract with the Secretary under this subsection, a State shall agree not to reduce the annual amount the State expended for the operation of one or more State high risk pools during the year preceding the year in which such contract is entered into.

(c) Qualified high risk pool

(1) In general

Amounts made available under this section shall be used to establish a qualified high risk pool that meets the requirements of paragraph (2).

(2) Requirements

A qualified high risk pool meets the requirements of this paragraph if such pool—