

**INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL AUDIT: 2024 AUDIT  
FINDINGS REPORT**

**CONNECTICUT**

**CONNECTICUT HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE  
DBA ACCESS HEALTH CT (AHCT)**



ASSURANCE | ADVISORY | TAX | TECHNOLOGY

## **INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL AUDIT: 2024 FINDINGS REPORT**

To: CCHIO State Exchange Group  
From: Whittlesey PC  
Date: November 14, 2024  
Subject: Audit Findings Report for Connecticut Audit Period: Year Ended June 30, 2024

### **I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY PURPOSE**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this independent external audit is to ensure that the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange (dba Access Health CT (AHCT)) in the State of Connecticut is in compliance with the financial and programmatic requirements set forth by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

We conducted this performance audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards established by the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on the audit objectives.

Name of State-Based Marketplace (SBM): Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange (dba Access Health CT (AHCT))

State of SBM: Connecticut

Name of Auditing Firm: Whittlesey PC

#### **Scope**

Our responsibility is to perform a programmatic audit on AHCT's compliance with 45 CFR Part 155 for the year ending June 30, 2024, which are:

- General Standards (Subpart B)
- General Functions (Subpart C)
- Eligibility Determinations (Subpart D)
- Enrollment Functions (Subpart E)
- Appeals of Eligibility Determinations (Subpart F)
- Exemptions (Subpart G)
- SHOP (Subpart H)
- Certification of Qualified Health Plans (Subpart K)
- Oversight and Program Integrity Standards (Subpart M)
- State Flexibility (Subpart N)
- Quality Reporting Standards (Subpart O)

Our audit consisted of specific procedures and objectives to test AHCT’s compliance and program effectiveness with all subparts of 45 CFR Part 155 listed above and we are reporting on the following key subparts comprising the core functions of Marketplace operations under 45 CFR Part 155 as defined by CMS in “State-based Marketplace Independent External Audit Technical Assistance” dated March 15, 2016:

- General Functions (Subpart C)
- Eligibility Determinations (Subpart D)
- Enrollment Functions (Subpart E)
- Certification of Qualified Health Plans (Subpart K)

## **Methodology**

### **Audit Firm Background**

Whittlesey PC has over 50 years of auditing and compliance experience, specializing in financial audits in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and compliance audits following the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance).

### **Audit of the Financial Statements**

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange, which comprise the statement of net position as of June 30, 2024 and the related statements of revenues, expenses and changes in net position and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange’s basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated November 14, 2024.

### **Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued a report dated November 14, 2024 on our consideration of Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange’s internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange’s internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering Connecticut Health Insurance Exchange’s internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

## **Programmatic Audit in Accordance with CMS Requirements:**

### ***Report on Compliance with 45 CFR Part 155***

We have audited AHCT's compliance with the compliance requirements described in the above scope in accordance with 45 CFR Part 155 for the year ended June 30, 2024.

### ***Management's Responsibility***

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements of federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions applicable to 45 CFR Part 155.

### ***Auditors' Responsibility***

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on AHCT's compliance with 45 CFR Part 155. We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and CMS. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether noncompliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on the program occurred. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence about AHCT's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion on compliance with 45 CFR Part 155. However, our audit does not provide a legal determination of AHCT's compliance.

### ***Opinion on Compliance with 45 CFR Part 155***

In our opinion, AHCT complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above for the year ended June 30, 2024.

## **Summary of Programmatic Procedures:**

We reviewed the following documentation obtained from AHCT:

- Public Act No. 11-53, An Act Establishing a State Health Insurance Exchange
- Privacy Policy
- CT Privacy Impact Assessment
- Annual Security and Privacy Attestation
- Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) Mitigation Plan
- Access to The Access Health Learning Center Learning Modules and Certification Exams
- Policy for Establishing Requirements for Certification, Recertification and Decertification of Qualified Health Plans
- Policy for Nondiscrimination in Health Programs and Activities Policy for Tribal Consultation
- Policy for Acquiring Operations Funding
- Policy for Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action Policy for Procurement: Contracting for Personal Services
- Small Employers Health Options Program (SHOP) Policy Employer Group Application Form
- Employer Application Supplement Form
- Compliance and Disciplinary Policy for Certified Independent Brokers Ethics Policy
- Accounting Policy and Procedure Manual

- Policy for Employer Appeals Process
- By-Laws
- Call Center Management Agreement - TTEC, Inc.
- Access Health CT Website
- Application for Exemption from the Individual Responsibility Requirement form
- Enrollment Form
- Connecticut SMART 2023 Package
- Sample Applications
- MARS-E standards
- Information Exchange Agreement Extension (issued 11/27/2023)
- Matching Agreement - To Connect with CMS Data Services Hub
- Current POAMs for MARS-E Standards Submitted to CMS
- System Security Plan
- IRS Publication 1075
- Access Health CT Network Security Policies and Procedures, with MARS-E and NIST SP 800-53 requirements mapped to specific policy areas (Access Health CT and BEST)

We interviewed the following AHCT staff and performed walkthroughs of data systems and operations to understand management and staff responsibilities and processes as they relate to compliance with 45 CFR Part 155:

- Controller
- Business Solutions Analyst
- Training Facilitator
- Carrier Product Manager
- Director of Legal and Governmental Affairs

We interviewed the following non-AHCT staff and performed walkthroughs of data systems and operations to understand management and staff responsibilities and processes as they relate to compliance with 45 CFR Part 155:

- Program Manager, Call Center TTEC

We analyzed the following samples obtained from AHCT's eligibility, enrollment, terminations, and carrier populations to evaluate compliance with key subparts of 45 CFR Part 155:

- A listing of 715,957 distinct households with an eligibility determination between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024 was provided to us from AHCT Technical Operations. A random sample of 40 applications were selected to test the compliance of 45 CFR 155 Subpart D, Eligibility Determinations, and 45 CFR 155 Subpart E, Enrollment Functions.
- A listing of 24,222 terminations from qualified health plans between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024 was provided to us from AHCT Technical Operations. Termination population included both voluntary terminations initiated by participants in addition to circumstantial terminations. A random sample of 40 applications was selected to test the compliance of 45 CFR 155 Subpart E, Enrollment Functions, Section 155.430, Termination of Coverage.
- A listing of 3 health insurance carriers used by AHCT was provided to us from AHCT Plan Management. All three carriers were selected to test compliance with 45 CFR 155 Subpart K, Certification of Qualified Health Plans.

- Compliance with 45 CFR 155 Subpart C, General Functions, was determined through interviews and review of documentation.

**CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION OMITTED**

N/A

**II. AUDIT FINDINGS**

**Key Findings**

None

**AUDITOR'S OPINION**

Based on the Key Findings above, it is Whittlesey's opinion that the accounting practices and financial statements reviewed during the 2024 independent external audit are:

MODIFIED       UNMODIFIED       ADVERSE       DISCLAIMER

**III. RECOMMENDATIONS**

None

**IV. CONCLUSION**

We confirm to the best of our knowledge that the information included in this Audit Findings Report is accurate and based on a thorough review of the documentation required for this report.

**SIGNATURE OF AUDIT FIRM:**

Whittlesey PC

**COMPLETION DATE OF AUDIT FINDINGS REPORT:** November 14, 2024

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