Oregon was one of seven states granted $48 million for an “Early Innovator” Grant from Health and Human Services through the Affordable Care Act. The Oregon Health Authority was awarded the grant in order to apply creative strategies for Information Technology (IT) infrastructure necessary for Health Insurance Exchanges to function.

By establishing a place where health insurance customers can compare competitive prices and specific health plans tailored to their needs, Exchanges will make health care purchases easier and more affordable for small businesses and individuals.

This grant is a huge acknowledgement of how Oregon is leading the way on health reform. It will help support our innovative efforts to improve access to healthcare coverage for families across the state. Congressman Blumenauer has long stressed the importance of moving aggressively to implement the new reform law because healthcare spending in our country is spiraling out of control. The award reflects the enormous work that local leaders have done laying the groundwork to improve our health care system.