



**THE NELSON A.
ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT**

The public policy research arm of the State University of New York



NEWS

July 26, 2016

**For Immediate Release
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Implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), a Work in Progress

Albany, NY — Richard P. Nathan, senior fellow at the Rockefeller Institute, summarizes several findings from the 40-state ACA Implementation Research Network, a project jointly operated by the Rockefeller Institute and the Brookings Institution. Nathan describes the ACA as a "gigantic public management work in progress" and notes surprises and challenges revealed during its implementation:

- Medicaid enrollments have exceeded early forecasts, as many people who had been eligible for Medicaid only learned of their eligibility when checking on the exchanges;
- The continuing need for navigators, brokers, and other forms of active, individualized assistance to help consumers enroll in health insurance and retain coverage over time;
- The emergence of new concerns for consumers as many health insurance companies try to reduce costs by narrowing their networks of providers and by offering more tightly defined HMO plans;
- Ever-changing market conditions, such as withdrawals by certain insurance companies from participating in the exchanges and warnings of increased rates; and
- A complex sharing of responsibilities between states and the federal government.

According to Nathan, with states experiencing varying degrees of success, there is still a lot to learn and, as he states, "new laws like this take a long time to play out."

To access the brief, go to www.rockinst.org/ACA/pdf/2016-07-Health_Reform_Implementation.pdf.

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