

Public may see who does business with South Carolina

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COLUMBIA — Blue Cross Blue Shield of South Carolina did more than \$1.3 billion in business with state government in one year's time.

That's according to a new database for fiscal year 2014 created by the Comptroller General's office. It shows which companies receive the most business from South Carolina state government.

[Click here to see the database.](#)

A significant percentage of the Blue Cross Blue Shield payment total is for health insurance for state workers, but it was unclear Friday whether that was due to the sizable amounts and the involvement of other agencies, such as the Public Employee Benefit Authority, in payments to BCBS, according to Comptroller General staff.

The next-highest vendor totals were: pharmacy benefit manager Catamaran PBM of Illinois with \$329 million in business, healthcare company Medco Health Solutions of New Jersey with \$303 million, BlueChoice Healthplan of South Carolina with \$71.4 million, Bank of America with \$51.2 million, printing business RL Bryan Company with \$51.1 million, and law firm Nexsen Pruet, LLC with \$49 million.

Some Georgia-based vendors also count South Carolina agencies as a customer, among them Savannah's APAC Southeast, Inc., a company with \$8.9 million in business, that does paving, grading, and other services for roadway and civil construction work.

"We'll continue working to make government more transparent," said Comptroller General Richard Eckstrom, a Republican, in a news release. "Our approaches are always evolving. We'll constantly attempt to keep pace with requests and with developing technology."

The office advises other agencies on financial transparency, monitors spending by state as a way to keep agencies from exceeding their budgets and processes vendor invoices and payrolls for state employees.

The agency's Fiscal Transparency Website can be found at www.cg.sc.gov. The site was launched in 2008 and allows the public to examine spending by their city and county councils and local school districts.

The S.C. Comptroller's Office receives no extra funding to provide and maintain the site, and instead relies on existing staff and resources, states the agency's press release.

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