

Rinaldi M. Boykin Bio

Rinaldi Boykin is the last original member of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) team that took the congressional mandate to craft, launch and implement the Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC) program and made it real for hundreds of thousands of Americans.

“There is no other job that I have had in the IRS or outside the IRS where I go to work every day understanding that there are some people out there that really, really need our program,” Rinaldi, the deputy program manager of HCTC, said. “For that reason, it is very rewarding to go to work and know that people are depending on you.”

Boykin, 46, joined the IRS in 1995 with a focus on moving the mechanics of the agency to more efficient and cost-effective implementation of programs. He started in the Office of Cost Analysis, which worked directly for the CFO of the IRS, and was part of teams that probed and prodded groundbreaking strategies that would save expenses while improving service. One of the key breakthroughs was Boykin's leadership on creating an activity-based costing model for submission processing of tax returns that come into the IRS.

His success there led to his appointment to the CFO's financial management office for about one year before being selected to be part of an elite team of top-level civil service personnel that worked strictly for the IRS Commissioner's office on a variety of projects. Those projects ranged from creating an Internet security system for the IRS, which remains in place today, to building a planning tracking tool to ensure action and response to highly visible activities where the IRS Commissioner might be involved.

He joined the HCTC program in November 2002, three months after the program was created by Congress and shortly after the Treasury Department gave the IRS the responsibility for getting the program up and running.

“No one had heard of the program,” he said. “They asked me if I wanted to be a part of this new project office. With very little to go on, I said sure, why not!”

Rinaldi and four others started the program, conducted a feasibility study, steered the contractor selection process, and launched the procurement process. The program had to be fully functioning by August 2003, a deadline achieved. The program was then authorized for five years, until 2008; it was reauthorized through the end of December 2010.

More than 350,000 Americans are potentially eligible to benefit from the program, Rinaldi said. “We carry close to 20,000 in the program each month, but that is a rolling number with some people leaving and new people joining,” he said. He estimates more than half a million people have been helped in the six years of the program.

“There are so many who have a negative perception of the IRS. However, those who are familiar with and benefit from the HCTC program have a different view of the IRS and appreciate it,” Rinaldi said. “To be

able to assist folks who have lost their jobs and already have so many things to worry about, to take this one headache off their plate and give them significant assistance in that area, it's a good feeling. It really makes getting up and going to work easier."

Rinaldi is a native of Northern Virginia. He was raised in the Mount Vernon area and still lives there with his wife and two daughters.

He is a 1985 graduate of the University of Virginia, with a degree in Economics. He earned a Masters degree in Business Administration from Averett College (now University) in Danville, Va., in 1992.

Prior to joining the IRS he was an assistant vice president for Crestar (now SunTrust) Bank and a program manager for Battelle Memorial Institute.

Rinaldi enjoys traveling, playing basketball, motorcycle riding and spending time with his daughters.

Honors and awards include:

- Director's Award for development of the Servicewide Action Planning Application, 2000
- Dept of Treasury Secretary's Award of Appreciation for implementation of HCTC, 2003