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### **Administrative Bulletin 20-43**

## **Add-On Rate Applicable to Certain Social Service Programs to Compensate for Costs Associated with Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Provider Operated Residential Congregate Care Settings**

Effective May 11, 2020

### **Purpose and Effective Period**

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) is issuing this administrative bulletin pursuant to the authority of COVID-19 Order No. 20: *Order Authorizing the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to Adjust Essential Provider Rates During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency* and Executive Order 591: *Declaration of State of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19*. In light of the state of emergency declared in the Commonwealth due to COVID-19, EOHHS is establishing an add-on rate in certain social service program rate regulations to address costs associated with COVID-19 in provider operated residential congregate care settings, as further described in this administrative bulletin.

This administrative bulletin is effective as of May 11, 2020, and will apply to dates of service from May 1, 2020, through June 30, 2020.

Disclaimer: This administrative bulletin is not authorization for a provider's use of the COVID-19 add-on rate. Governmental units that purchase services with rates established in the regulations listed below are responsible for authorizing and determining the use of the add-on rate.

### **Background**

Providers of social service programs, as defined in M.G.L. Chapter 118E, Section 8A, may be experiencing increased staffing and equipment costs as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency. EOHHS seeks to promote continued delivery of critical services to its clients by providing financial relief to providers for these additional costs. Accordingly, EOHHS is establishing an add-on rate to the rate regulations listed below to address the increased costs related to COVID-19. Governmental units purchasing services pursuant to rates established in the rate regulations listed below may utilize the COVID-19 add-on rate to compensate providers that have incurred increased costs associated with COVID-19.

### **Add-On Rate to Address Costs Associated with COVID-19**

The following add-on rate is intended to address costs incurred that are associated with COVID-19 specific to provider operated residential congregate care settings, including increased staffing costs, infection control, and personal protective equipment (PPE).



Add-On Name	Unit	Rate
COVID-19 Residential Congregate Care Settings Supplemental Add-On	Monthly	15% of the provider's average monthly state funding for the months of November 2019 through January 2020

Note: For purposes of this administrative bulletin, the term “state funding” means the aggregate amount of payments to a provider by a governmental unit for applicable social service programs purchased at rates established in applicable regulations as provided in this administrative bulletin. State funding does not include any amounts attributable to federal funding or grant funds.

**Scope: Applicable Regulations**

This administrative bulletin applies to the following regulations:

- 101 CMR 346:00: Rates for Certain Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders Programs
- 101 CMR 411:00: Rates for Certain Placement, Support, and Shared Living Services
- 101 CMR 412:00: Rates for Family Transitional Support Services
- 101 CMR 413:00: Payments for Youth Intermediate-Term Stabilization Services
- 101 CMR 418:00: Payments for Youth Short-Term Stabilization and Emergency Placement Services
- 101 CMR 420:00: Rates for Adult Long-Term Residential Services
- 101 CMR 421:00: Rates for Adult Housing and Community Support Services
- 101 CMR 426:00: Rates for Certain Adult Community Mental Health Services
- 101 CMR 430:00: Rates for Program of Assertive Community Treatment Services

**Public Comment**

EOHHS will accept comments on the rate established via this administrative bulletin through May 25, 2020. Individuals may submit written comments by emailing [ehs-regulations@state.ma.us](mailto:ehs-regulations@state.ma.us). Please submit written comments as an attached Word document or as text within the body of the email with the name of this administrative bulletin in the subject line. All submissions of comments must include the sender's full name, mailing address, and organization or affiliation, if any. Individuals who are unable to submit comments by email may mail written comments to Kara Solimini, Director of Purchase of Services, Executive Office of Health and Human Services, 100 Hancock Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Quincy, MA 02171.

EOHHS may adopt a revised version of this administrative bulletin taking into account relevant comments and any other practical alternatives that come to its attention.