




**MassHealth**  
**Home Health Agency Bulletin 62**  
**January 2021**

**TO:** Home Health Agencies Participating in MassHealth  
**FROM:** Daniel Tsai, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth   
**RE:** **FY21 General Appropriations Act Home Health Aide Rate Increases and Reporting Requirements**

### **Introduction**

This bulletin communicates information regarding the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) General Appropriations Act (Chapter 227 of the Acts of 2020) and associated reporting requirements for home health agencies. The legislation appropriates \$17.5 million to the Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) to increase rates for homemaker, personal care, and home health aide services provided through the EOEA Home Care Program, the MassHealth State Plan Home Health Program, and the MassHealth ABI/MFP Waiver Program from January 1, 2021, through June 30, 2021. The legislation defines the supplemental rate as \$2.68 per service hour for home health aide (or \$0.67 per 15 minute unit).

Eligible home health agencies must submit an attestation prior to receiving funds from the FY21 General Appropriations Act. The attestation must state that funds will be used for hourly wage increases, other categories of worker compensation, and other related eligible costs. Additionally, home health agencies that receive funds from the appropriation are required to submit a spending report to EOEA that accounts for how the appropriated funds were used.

EOEA and MassHealth will post documents and information related to the implementation on the EOEA website, which can be accessed here: [www.mass.gov/lists/home-care-and-home-health-supplemental-rates](http://www.mass.gov/lists/home-care-and-home-health-supplemental-rates) . Providers are encouraged to check this site regularly for updated information.

Providers may submit questions related to the FY21 General Appropriations Act, distribution of funds, and other questions related to this bulletin to [homecareaidrates@mass.gov](mailto:homecareaidrates@mass.gov).

### **Provider Attestation Form**

The FY21 General Appropriations Act states prior to funds being distributed, home care and home health agencies must submit an attestation affirming the rate add-on funds will be used for

- hourly wage increases;
- other categories of worker compensation such as bonuses, overtime related personnel expenses; and
- other related eligible costs, including but not limited to, personal protective equipment.

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EOEA and MassHealth have created an online attestation form for home care and home health agencies to complete by **Friday February 12, 2021**. The form can be accessed from any internet browser here:

[app.keysurvey.com/f/41544105/2fa1/](http://app.keysurvey.com/f/41544105/2fa1/)

Home health and home care agencies are only required to submit a single provider attestation form that includes all of their state-funded contracts for the provision of homemaker, personal care, and/or home health aide services under MassHealth and through the EOEA Homecare Program. Home health agencies will find additional guidance regarding allowable uses for the rate add-ons at the EOEA website link below (See “EOEA and MassHealth Provider Content Page”).

Providers are required to save or print a copy of their attestation submission for their records.

### **Provider Spending Report**

Home health and home care agencies are required to submit a single spending report that includes all of their state-funded contracts for the provision of homemaker, personal care, and/or home health aide services under the EOEA Home Care Program, the MassHealth State Plan Home Health Program, and the MassHealth ABI/MFP Waiver Program. The spending report must account for the use of all appropriated funds received and be submitted to EOEA.

EOEA and MassHealth will create an online spending report tool for providers. EOEA and MassHealth will release this spending report form and instructions in subsequent provider communications and post a link to the report tool on the EOEA website below. Providers may expect the spending report to align with the types of allowable uses of the appropriate funds outlined in the legislation.

### **EOEA and MassHealth Provider Content Page**

EOEA and MassHealth will post documents and information related to the implementation of FY21 General Appropriations Act on the EOEA website, which can be accessed at: [www.mass.gov/lists/home-care-and-home-health-supplemental-rates](http://www.mass.gov/lists/home-care-and-home-health-supplemental-rates). Providers are encouraged to check this site regularly for updated information.

Providers are encouraged to submit questions regarding this implementation to [homecareaiderates@mass.gov](mailto:homecareaiderates@mass.gov).

EOEA and MassHealth will be hosting a webinar for providers on **Wednesday January 27, 2021, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.** This webinar will include a review of the implementation information discussed in this bulletin, including the attestation. The webinar access information is posted on the website.

## **Failure to Submit a Spending Plan**

Providers may be subject to sanction for failure to submit a spending plan in accordance with 130 CMR 450.238 and 130 CMR 450.239.

## **Promulgation of Rates under 101 CMR 350.00: *Home Health Services***

All rates applicable to MassHealth fee-for-service home health services are required to be established in regulation pursuant to M.G.L. c. 118, s. 13D and are established at 101 CMR 350.00: *Home Health Services*.

Forthcoming updates to the rates for home health services established in 101 CMR 350.00 will be communicated to stakeholders via public notice and transmittal letter.

## **MassHealth Website**

This bulletin is available on the [MassHealth Provider Bulletins](#) web page.

To sign up to receive email alerts when MassHealth issues new bulletins and transmittal letters, send a blank email to [join-masshealth-provider-pubs@listserv.state.ma.us](mailto:join-masshealth-provider-pubs@listserv.state.ma.us). No text in the body or subject line is needed.

## **Questions**

For questions or assistance on completing a spending plan, email your inquiry to [homecareaiderates@mass.gov](mailto:homecareaiderates@mass.gov). The MassHealth LTSS Provider Service Center is also open from 8 am to 6 pm ET, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. LTSS Providers should direct their questions about this letter or other MassHealth LTSS Provider questions to the LTSS Third Party Administrator (TPA) as follows:

**Phone:** Toll free (844) 368-5184  
**Email:** [support@masshealthltss.com](mailto:support@masshealthltss.com)  
**Portal:** [www.MassHealthLTSS.com](http://www.MassHealthLTSS.com)  
**Mail:** MassHealth LTSS  
P.O. Box 159108  
Boston, MA 02215  
**Fax:** (888) 832-3006