

NOTICE OF AGENCY ACTION

SUBJECT: Supplemental Payments for Eligible Providers of Mental Health Center Services

AGENCY: Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS)

Summary of Agency Action

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) intends to amend its Medicaid State Plan during the second quarter of calendar year 2024 to establish a discrete supplemental payment to eligible mental health center providers enrolled in the MassHealth Program.

Under M.G.L. chapter 118E, EOHHS is required to establish rates to be paid by governmental units to providers of non-institutional health care services, including mental health center services provided under the MassHealth Program. This notice describes the methods and standards MassHealth will use to establish a discrete supplemental payment for mental health center services providers (supplemental payment).

EOHHS expects this supplemental payment to be effective June 19, 2024. EOHHS expects supplemental payments will be made to eligible mental health centers in two installments following the effective date and before December 31, 2024.

Description of Methods and Standards: Supplemental Payment

The Supplemental Payment is consistent with efficiency, economy, and quality of care. The estimated annual total MassHealth expenditure will increase by approximately \$15.6 million for mental health center providers over FY2024 base spending. This supplemental payment will expire after all funds are issued. There is no fiscal impact on cities and towns.

Mental health center providers that fall into one of the defined supplemental payment groups described below may be eligible for payments, subject to EOHHS requirements regarding permissible uses of funds and reporting. Supplemental payments will be determined using the following methodology:

- (1) **Eligibility.** Supplemental payments for mental health centers will be made by establishing Group A and Group B supplemental payments with two separate eligibility criteria.
 - a. Group A will consist of the mental health centers affiliated with the thirty provider organizations with the highest unduplicated member count served in calendar year 2023, as determined by EOHHS.
 - b. Group B will consist of the mental health centers affiliated with an organization that receives a threshold composite score of two points out of a maximum of eight points. The composite score will be determined from points awarded to organizations as follows:
 - Operation of the only mental health center within that geographic area (three points);
 - Operation of a mental health center designated as a behavioral health urgent care center (two points);

- Operation of a mental health center within the geographic areas with the greatest use of emergency department services (one point) and/or behavioral health inpatient services (one point); and
- Registration in the Massachusetts Supplier Diversity Program Directory of Certified Business prior to June 1, 2024 (one point).

Eligible mental health centers may only receive payment under either Group A or Group B. If an eligible mental health center receives either Group A or Group B funding, no other mental health center associated with the organization of providers under the same tax identification number may receive a supplemental payment.

(2) **Group A Supplemental Payments.** Supplemental payments to Group A mental health centers will equal a total of \$7.8 million distributed proportionally across the eligible Group A mental health centers as calculated by EOHHS.

(3) **Group B Supplemental Payments.** Supplemental payments to Group B mental health centers will equal a total of \$7.8 million distributed proportionally across the eligible Group B mental health centers as calculated by EOHHS.

Justification

The supplemental payment described in this notice conforms with state and federal law and is within the range of reasonable payment levels to providers of mental health center services and within federal payment limits.

Except as specified in this notice, the MassHealth rates paid to providers of mental health center services remain the same as those established in 101 CMR 306: *Rates for Mental Health Services Provided in Community Health Centers and Mental Health Centers*.

Individuals may submit written comments by emailing ehs-regulations@state.ma.us. Please submit electronic comments as an attached Word document or as text within the body of the email with “Mental Health Center Supplemental Payment” in the subject line. All submissions must include the sender’s full name and address. Individuals who are unable to submit comments by email should mail written comments to EOHHS, c/o D. Briggs, 100 Hancock Street, 6th Floor, Quincy, MA 02171. EOHHS specifically invites comments as to how the agency action may affect beneficiary access to care.

The supplemental payment terms are available at EOHHS’s website at [2024 Administrative Bulletins](#).

Published on the web and in the newspaper: June 18, 2024

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

M.G.L. c 118E, M.G.L c 152, § 13

Related Regulations:

42 CFR Part 440