

## NOTICE OF AGENCY ACTION

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

**AGENCY:** Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services

### Summary of Agency Action

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

Pursuant to M.G.L. chapter 118E, EOHHS is required to establish rates to be paid by governmental units to providers of non-institutional healthcare 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 November 7, 2024. EOHHS expects supplemental payments will be made to eligible mental health centers 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 \$1.3 million for mental health center providers over FY2024 base spending. The aggregate amount of funding available for these supplemental payments is \$16.9 million. This supplemental payment will expire after all funds are issued. There is no fiscal impact on cities and towns.

Mental health center providers that meet the defined supplemental payment for Group C described below may be eligible for payments, subject to EOHHS requirements regarding permissible uses of funds and reporting. Group A and Group B methodology and funding levels are not changing as a result of the addition of Group C. Supplemental payments will be determined using the following methodology:

**(1) Eligibility.** Supplemental payments for mental health centers will be made by establishing Group C supplemental payments. Group C will consist of the mental health centers affiliated with an organization that provided outpatient behavioral health services to at least 950 unique MassHealth members during Calendar Year 2023, as determined by EOHHS, that further receive a threshold composite score of one point out 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 Group A, Group B, or Group C. If an eligible mental health center receives Group A, Group B, or Group C 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 C Supplemental Payments.** Supplemental payments to Group C mental health centers will equal a total aggregate amount of \$1.3 million. Each Group C mental health center will receive a minimum of \$120,000 with the remainder of funding distributed according to calculation by EOHHS across the eligible Group C mental health centers based proportionally on the number of unduplicated members who received behavioral health outpatient services during calendar year 2023.

### **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](mailto:ehs-regulations@state.ma.us). Please email 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 may be found in Administrative Bulletin 24-26, available on the EOHHS website at [2024 Administrative Bulletins](#).

Published on the web: November 1, 2024

### **STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

M.G.L. c 118E, M.G.L c 152, § 13

Related Regulations:  
42 CFR Part 440