Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Under the authority of M.G.L. c. 118E and in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) will hold two remote public hearings on Friday, December 11, 2026, at the respective times listed below, relative to the adoption of amendments to the following regulations.

Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 118E, Section 13D, EOHHS is required to establish by regulation, and biennially review, the rates to be paid by governmental units to providers of social service programs. In accordance with this requirement, rates for certain services, as described below for each chapter, are being increased by a cost adjustment factor (CAF) of 2.68%. The CAF was determined by using baseline and prospective Massachusetts Economic Indicator data from the IHS Joint Economic Spring 2026 Forecast, baseline scenario data. The CAF reflects the period between the rates' base period (Calendar Year 2026 Q4) and the prospective period calendar years 2027 and 2028). The proposed rates for these services have incorporated staff salaries benchmarked to the most recent Massachusetts Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) median wages for 2025 at the 53rd percentile. The tax and fringe rate has been benchmarked to 26.93%. This benchmark is derived from the MA Comptroller's FY27 proposed rate, less terminal leave and retirement. The administrative allocation has been benchmarked to 12% to remain consistent across all Chapter 257 regulations.

The proposed regulations contain rates effective for dates of service on or after January 1, 2027. There is no fiscal impact on cities and towns.

Hearing 1: 9:30 a.m.: 101 CMR 417.00: Rates for Certain Elder Care Services

101 CMR 417.00 governs the payment rates for certain elder care services provided to publicly aided individuals by governmental units. These services are purchased by the Executive Office of Aging & Independence (AGE). The rates for certain elder care services are being updated.

The total FY27 cost to state government from the increase in rates established by this regulation is approximately $21.7 million, which represents a total increase of 7.64% over FY26 spending of approximately $284 million. The annualized cost to state government will be $10.84 million, which will be covered through the Chapter 257 Reserve Account and the purchasing agency's operating budget.

Hearing 2: 10:30 a.m.: 101 CMR 424.00: Rates for Certain Developmental and Support Services

101 CMR 424.00 governs the payment rates for certain developmental and support services provided to publicly aided individuals by governmental units. These services are purchased by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind (MCB), and MassAbility (MBY). The rates for clinical team services are being updated.

The total estimated annualized cost to state government from the increase in rates proposed by these amendments is $1.34 million, which represents an increase of 10.88% over FY26 spending of approximately $12.34 million. This cost will not be realized until January 1, 2027, at which point the FY27 estimated cost to state government will be $671,000. The increase in spending in FY27 for the clinical team services rates will be covered through the Chapter 257 Reserve Account.

Register to testify and get instructions to join the hearing online at mass.gov/info-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings. You can join by phone at (646) 558-8656. The meeting ID is 935 397 8200#.

You can submit written testimony instead of, or in addition to, live testimony. Submit written testimony to ehs-regulations@mass.gov as an attached Word or PDF document or as text within the body of the email. Put the name of the regulation in the subject line. All written testimony must include the sender's full name, mailing address, and organization or affiliation, if any. You can also mail written testimony to EOHHS, c/o D. Briggs, 1 Enterprise Drive, 4th Floor, Quincy, MA 02171. Written testimony will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on December 11, 2026. EOHHS specifically invites comments as to how the amendments may affect beneficiary access to care for MassHealth-covered services.

You can review the current draft of the proposed regulation at mass.gov/info-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings. You can also request a copy in writing from MassHealth Publications, 1 Enterprise Drive, 4th Floor, Quincy, MA 02171. To view or download related supporting materials, go to mass.gov/info-details/proposed-regulations-supporting-materials.

Email the Disability Accommodations Ombudsman at ADAAccommodations@mass.gov to make special accommodation requests. You can also call (617) 847-3468, TTY: (617) 847-3788. Please allow two weeks to schedule sign language interpreters.

EOHHS may adopt a revised version of the proposed regulation taking into account relevant comments and any other practical alternatives that come to its attention.

In case of inclement weather or other emergency, hearing cancellation announcements will be posted on the MassHealth website at mass.gov/info-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings.

Date of Newspaper Ad: November 20, 2026