

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to the authority of M.G.L. c. 118E and in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, three public hearings will be held on Friday, March 27, 2020, in the First Floor Conference Room, 100 Hancock Street, Quincy, MA, each at the respective time relative to the adoption of amendments to:

1. **9:00 a.m.: 101 CMR 425.00: Rates for Certain Young Parent Support Programs.** M.G.L. Chapter 118E, Section 13D, requires EOHHS to establish and biennially update rates to be paid by governmental units to providers of social service programs. In accordance with this statutory requirement, the proposed amendments update rates for Certain Young Parent Support Programs to include a Cost Adjustment Factor (CAF) of 1.78%. The CAF was determined by using baseline and prospective Massachusetts Economic Indicator data from IHS Economics – Fall 2019 Forecast, optimistic scenario data. The CAF reflects the period between the rates base period (FY2020 Quarter 4) and the prospective period (July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2022). The model budgets for the young parent support programs have been updated to incorporate an employer contribution required by the Massachusetts paid family and medical leave law. Lastly, as part of the workforce initiative, the staff salaries for direct care, direct care III and support staff positions have been benchmarked to the most recent Massachusetts Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) wages for 2018 at the 50th percentile and the Tax and Fringe has been benchmarked to 22.31%.. This proposed amended regulation is planned to go into effect no sooner than July 1, 2020. There is no fiscal impact to cities and towns.
2. **9:30 a.m.: 101 CMR 410.00: Rates for Competitive Integrated Employment Services.** M.G.L. Chapter 118E, Section 13D, requires EOHHS to establish and biennially update rates to be paid by governmental units to providers of social service programs. In accordance with this statutory requirement, the proposed amendments update rates for Competitive Integrated Employment Services to include a cost adjustment factor (CAF) of 1.78%. The CAF was determined by using baseline and prospective Massachusetts Economic Indicator data from IHS Economics – Fall 2019 Forecast, optimistic scenario data. The CAF reflects the period between the rates base period (FY2020 Quarter 4) and the prospective period (July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2022). The model budgets for Competitive Integrated Employment Services have been updated to incorporate an employer and employee contribution required by the Massachusetts paid family and medical leave law. Lastly, as part of the workforce initiative, the staff salary for the direct care staff position has been benchmarked to the most recent Massachusetts Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) wages for 2018 at the 50th percentile and the Tax and Fringe has been benchmarked to 22.31%.

This proposed amended regulation is planned to go into effect no sooner than July 1, 2020. There is no fiscal impact to cities and towns.

3. **10:00 a.m.: 101 CMR 423.00: Rates for Certain In-Home Basic Living Supports.** M.G.L. Chapter 118E, Section 13D, requires EOHHS to establish and biennially update rates to be paid by governmental units to providers of social service programs. In accordance with this requirement, the proposed amendments update rates for In-Home Basic Living Support Services to include a cost adjustment factor (CAF) of 1.78%. The CAF was determined by using baseline and prospective Massachusetts Economic Indicator data from IHS Economics – Fall 2019 Forecast, optimistic scenario data. The CAF reflects the period between the rates base period (FY2020 Quarter 4) and the prospective period (July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2022). The model budgets for In-Home Basic Living Support Services have been updated to incorporate an employer and employee contribution required by the Massachusetts paid family and medical leave law. Furthermore, as part of the workforce initiative, the staff salaries for the independent licensed clinicians, licensed practical nurses, social workers, certified nurse



assistants, and direct care staff positions have been benchmarked to the most recent Massachusetts Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) wages for 2017/2018 at the 50th percentile. Expenses for staff training and staff travel have been updated to reflect the weighted average from the FY18 Uniform Financial Reports. The occupancy expense has been updated and benchmarked to 101 CMR 421.00: Rates for Adult Housing and Community Support Services. Lastly, the tax and fringe rate has been benchmarked to 22.31% and the training and travel expenses have been updated to the FY18 UFR weighted average. This proposed amended regulation is planned to go into effect no sooner than July 1, 2020. There is no fiscal impact to cities and towns.

Individuals who notify EOHHS of their intent to testify at the hearing will be afforded an earlier opportunity to speak. Speakers may notify EOHHS of their intention to testify at the hearing by registering online at www.mass.gov/service-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings. Individuals may also submit written testimony by emailing ehs-regulations@state.ma.us. Please submit electronic testimony as an attached Word document or as text within the body of the email with the name of the regulation in the subject line. All submissions must include the sender's full name, mailing address, and organization or affiliation, if any. Individuals who are unable to submit testimony by email should mail written testimony to EOHHS, c/o D. Briggs, 100 Hancock Street, 6th Floor, Quincy, MA 02171. Written testimony must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 1, 2020.

All persons desiring to review the current draft of the proposed actions may go to www.mass.gov/service-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings or request a copy in writing or in person from MassHealth Publications, 100 Hancock Street, 6th Floor, Quincy, MA 02171. To view or download related supporting materials, go to www.mass.gov/service-details/proposed-regulations-supporting-materials.

Special accommodation requests may be directed to the Disability Accommodations Ombudsman by email at ADAAccommodations@state.ma.us or by phone at 617-847-3468 (TTY: 617-847-3788 for people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech disabled). Please allow two weeks to schedule sign language interpreters.

EOHHS may adopt a revised version of the proposed actions 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 www.mass.gov/service-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings.

March 6, 2020