

**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 a remote public hearing on Friday, May 3, 2024, 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 (f/k/a Chapter 257 of the Acts of 2008), EOHHS is required to establish by regulation and biennially review rates to be paid by governmental units to providers of social service programs. In accordance with this requirement, the rates in the proposed amendments to the regulations listed below are being updated to include an increase by a cost adjustment factor (CAF) of 2.58%. The CAF was determined by using baseline and prospective Massachusetts Economic Indicator data from IHS Economics – Fall 2023 Forecast, optimistic scenario data. The CAF reflects the period between the rates' base period (calendar year 2024 Q2) and the prospective period of fiscal years 2025 and 2026. The staff salaries have been benchmarked to the Massachusetts Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) median wages as dated May 2022 at the 53rd percentile. The tax and fringe rate has been benchmarked to 27.38%. This benchmark is derived from the MA Comptrollers FY24 approved rate less terminal leave and retirement. The administrative allocation has been benchmarked to 12%. The language in the severability section has also been updated for consistency across EOHHS rate regulations.

The proposed regulations contain rates effective for dates of service on or after July 1, 2024. There is no fiscal impact on cities and towns.

1. 9:00 a.m.: 101 CMR 410.00: Rates for Competitive Integrated Employment Services. This regulation governs the payment rates for competitive integrated employment services provided to publicly aided individuals by governmental units. These services are purchased by the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind, and the Department of Transitional Assistance. The rates for these services have been updated with the weighted average expenses from the FY20 and FY22 Uniform Financial Reports for services' programmatic costs. The total estimated FY25 annualized cost to state government from the proposed amendments to this regulation is approximately \$3.64 million, which represents an increase of 15.85% over FY23 spending of approximately \$23 million.

2. 9:30 a.m.: 101 CMR 412.00: Rates for Family Transitional Support Services. This regulation governs the payment rates for family transitional support services provided to publicly aided individuals by governmental units. These services are purchased by the Department of Public Health. The total estimated FY25 annualized cost to state government from the proposed amendments to this regulation is

approximately \$3.4 million, which represents an increase of 18.42% over projected FY23 spending of approximately \$18.45 million.

3. 10:00 a.m.: 101 CMR 425.00: Rates for Certain Young Parent Support Programs. This regulation governs the payment rates for Certain Young Parent Support Programs provided to publicly aided individuals by governmental units. These services are purchased by the Department of Transitional Assistance. The total annualized cost to state government from the proposed amendments is approximately \$702,744, which represents an increase of 14.80% over FY23 spending of approximately \$4.75M.

To register to testify at the hearing and to get instructions on how to join the hearing online, go to www.mass.gov/service-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings. To join the hearing by phone, call (646) 558-8656 and enter meeting ID 935 397 8200# when prompted.

You may also submit written testimony instead of, or in addition to, live testimony. To submit written testimony, please email your testimony to ehs-regulations@mass.gov as an attached Word or PDF document or as text within the body of the email with 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. 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 will be accepted through 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 3, 2024. EOHHS specifically invites comments as to how the amendments may affect beneficiary access to care for MassHealth-covered services.

To review the current draft of the proposed regulation, go to www.mass.gov/service-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings or request a copy in writing 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@mass.gov 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 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 www.mass.gov/service-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings.

April 12, 2024