

**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, March 7, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. relative to the adoption of amendments to the following regulation.

**101 CMR 424.00: Rates for Certain Developmental and Support Services**

The proposed regulation contains rates effective for dates of service on or after January 1, 2025. There is no fiscal impact on cities and towns.

101 CMR 424.00 governs the payment rates for certain developmental and support services provided to publicly aided individuals by governmental units that are purchased by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind (MCB), and MassAbility (formerly MRC). 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 the rates to be paid by governmental units for social service programs. In accordance with this statutory requirement, amendments to the clinical team services rates include an increase by a cost adjustment factor (CAF) of 2.02%. The CAF was determined by using baseline and prospective Massachusetts Economic Indicator data from IHS Economics – Spring 2024 Forecast, optimistic scenario data. The CAF reflects the period between the rates' base period (calendar year 2024 Q4) and the prospective period calendar years 2025 and 2026. The proposed rates for this service have incorporated staff salaries benchmarked to the most recent Massachusetts Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) median wages for 2023 at the 53<sup>rd</sup> percentile. The tax and fringe rate has been benchmarked to 24.97%. This benchmark is derived from the MA Comptroller's FY25 proposed rate less terminal leave and retirement. Additionally, DDS started a new service during FY24 called Intensive Community Wrap Autism Services (ICWAS), which references the clinical team rates.

The total estimated annualized cost to state government from the increase in rates established by this proposed amendment is \$2 million, which represents an increase of 16.90% over FY24 spending of approximately \$11.8 million. This cost will not be realized until January 1, 2025, at which point the FY25 estimated cost to state government will be \$1 million. The increase in spending in FY25 for the clinical rates of approximately \$640,000 will be covered through the Chapter 257 Reserve Account. The anticipated new spending of approximately \$360,000 and any additional funding for the ICWAS rates will be covered through a combination of the Reserve Account and DDS's operating budget.

To register to testify at the hearing and to get instructions on how to join the hearing online, go to [www.mass.gov/info-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings](http://www.mass.gov/info-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](mailto: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, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Quincy, MA 02171. Written testimony will be accepted through 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 7, 2025. 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/info-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings) or request a copy in writing from MassHealth Publications, 100 Hancock Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Quincy, MA 02171. To view or download related supporting materials, go to [www.mass.gov/info-details/proposed-regulations-supporting-materials](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/proposed-regulations-supporting-materials).

Special accommodation requests may be directed to the Disability Accommodations Ombudsman by email at [ADAAccommodations@mass.gov](mailto: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/info-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings).

February 14, 2025