

**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 five remote public hearings on Friday, June 13, 2025, 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 the rates to be paid by governmental units for social service programs. In accordance with this statutory requirement, the rates for certain services, as described below for each chapter, are being updated to include an increase by a cost adjustment factor (CAF) of 3.25%. The CAF was determined by using baseline and prospective Massachusetts Economic Indicator data from IHS Economics – Fall 2024 Forecast, baseline scenario data. The CAF reflects the period between the rates' base period (calendar year 2025 Q2) and the prospective period of fiscal years 2026 and 2027. In addition to the FY26 CAF, the rates for all services have been updated to include all staff salaries, benchmarked to the most recent Massachusetts Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) wages dated May 2023 at the 53rd percentile. For all services, the administrative allocation has been benchmarked to 12% and the tax and fringe rate has been benchmarked to 24.97%. This benchmark is derived from the MA Comptroller's FY25 approved rate less terminal leave and retirement. The increase in spending in FY26 will be covered through a combination of the Chapter 257 Reserve Account and the purchasing agencies' operating budgets.

The proposed regulations contain rates effective for dates of service on or after July 1, 2025. There is no fiscal impact on cities and towns.

1. 9:00 a.m.: 101 CMR 415.00: Rates for Community-Based Day Support Services

101 CMR 415.00 governs the payment rates for community-based day support services provided to publicly aided individuals by governmental units. Services with rates established by this regulation are purchased by the Department of Developmental Services, the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind, and MassAbility (formerly known as the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission).

The rates for community-based day support services (CBDS) and active treatment services are being updated. The language in the Severability section has also been updated for consistency across EOHHS rate regulations.

The total annualized cost to state government from the proposed amendments to this regulation is approximately \$17.8 million, which represents an increase of 9.32% over a combination of FY24 and FY25 spending of approximately \$187.4 million.

2. 10.00 a.m.: 101 CMR 413.00: Payments for Youth Intermediate-term Stabilization Services

101 CMR 413.00 governs the payment rates for youth intermediate-term stabilization services provided to publicly aided individuals by governmental units.

The rates for certain youth intermediate-term stabilization services are being updated, specific to clinically intensive residential treatment (CIRT); intensive residential treatment programs (IRTP); congregate care and intensive community services; youth residential; and youth transitional age services.

The total annualized cost to state government from the increase in rates amended by this regulation is approximately \$35.4 million, which represents an increase of 10.25% over FY24 spending of approximately \$346.2 million.

3. 11:00: 101 CMR 429.00: Rates for Certain Sexual and Domestic Violence Services

101 CMR 429.00 governs the payment rates for certain sexual and domestic violence services provided to publicly aided individuals by governmental units. These services are purchased by the Department of Public Health (DPH).

The rates for all the sexual and domestic violence services are being updated. The language in the Severability section has also been updated for consistency across EOHHS rate regulations.

The total annualized cost to state government from the proposed amendments is \$4.8 million, which represents an increase of 11.36% over FY24 spending of approximately \$42.6 million.

4. 11:30 a.m.: 101 CMR 432.00: Rates for Certain Lead Agency Services

101 CMR 432.00 governs the payment rates for certain lead agency services provided to publicly aided individuals by governmental units.

All the lead agency rates are being updated. The language in the Severability section has also been updated for consistency across EOHHS rate regulations.

The total projected annualized cost to state government from the increase in rates effective July 1, 2025, is approximately \$2.55 million, which represents an increase of 14.01% over FY24 annualized spending of approximately \$18.2 million.

5. 1:00 p.m.: 101 CMR 414.00: Rates for Family Stabilization Services

101 CMR 414.00 governs the payment rates for family stabilization services provided to publicly aided individuals by governmental units. These services are purchased by the Department of Children and Families (DCF), the Department of Public Health (DPH), and the Department of Mental Health (DMH).

The rates for Family Resource Center (FRC) services, purchased by DCF, are being updated. The occupancy expenses are benchmarked to the FY24 Uniform Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report (UFR), and the other programmatic expenses are based on the purchaser's recommendation and/or the prior benchmark inclusive of previous cost adjustment factors.

The total projected annualized cost to state government from the increase in rates effective July 1, 2025, is approximately \$3.1 million, which represents an increase of 12.23% over FY24 spending of approximately \$25.3 million.

To register to testify at the hearing and to get instructions on how to join the hearings online, go to www.mass.gov/info-details/executive-office-of-health-and-human-services-public-hearings. To join the hearings 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, June 13, 2025. EOHHS specifically invites comments as to how the amendments may affect beneficiary access to care for MassHealth-covered services.

To review the current drafts of the proposed regulations, go to 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, 6th Floor, Quincy, MA 02171. To view or download related supporting materials, go to 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 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 revised versions of the proposed regulations 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.

May 23, 2025