

Executive Director's Report

2025

Date: October 15, 2025
To: Group Insurance Commission
From: Matthew Veno, Executive Director
Subject: Executive Director's Report

Purpose: The purpose of this memo is to provide Commissioners with the monthly Executive Director's report in writing. Questions and comments from Commissioners on the content of this memo are welcome during this portion of the agenda.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Staffing Updates

I'm pleased to announce that Jennifer Kraft Hewitt has joined the GIC as our new Chief Financial Officer.

Jennifer returns to Massachusetts state government after nearly a decade in municipal service, most recently serving as the Assistant Town Administrator and Finance Director for the Town of Belmont. Before that, she was the Budget Officer for the Town of Lexington.

Jennifer brings with her more than 30 years of public sector experience. She began her career as a research analyst in the Massachusetts Legislature and went on to hold several key roles in both the Executive Office of Administration and Finance and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services.

We're excited to welcome Jennifer to the GIC and are already benefitting from the expertise and leadership she brings to our team.

LEGISLATIVE & MUNICIPAL

Legislative

As of today, the Governor's veto of \$27.5M from the GIC health care claims line item in the FY26 budget has not been overridden by the Legislature. We continue to track the final budget and the over 250 pieces of legislation that would impact GIC members currently before the Legislature. The provision in the supplemental budget which accompanied FY26 budget permitting the GIC to make mid-year plan design changes is being actively worked on by the Legislature – on Tuesday, October 14, the House passed this supplemental budget without the GIC language, and we expect the Senate to act on this bill next week. Over the past few months, staff and I have also spent time meeting with legislative leaders in health care to share information about where our budget stands and answer questions.

Municipal

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We are currently in our Special Enrollment period for READS Collaborative, which is joining effective January 1, 2026. Enrollment runs through October 24 for eligible READS members.

As we approach the December 1 deadline for municipalities to notify us of their intent to join the GIC effective July 1, 2026, we have kept in close contact with municipal entities that are currently members of a municipal joint purchasing arrangement called the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust (HCGIT), which is facing significant fiscal challenges. To date, 50 of the 73 HCGIT municipal units have interacted with us. GIC staff have also kept in communication with the Governor's office, other state agencies, and Legislators on how to best support the municipal entities seeking to join the GIC. After offering two informational webinars last month, we have asked for a non-binding statement of interest from municipal entities that wish to continue to engage with the GIC and receive an invitation to our next informational meeting. We have heard from 19 entities that wish to attend this meeting and one entity that has confirmed their interest in joining.

COMMUNICATIONS

The GIC continues taking steps to increase the adoption of the GIC's MyGICLink member benefits portal. The latest phase of this effort is the discontinuation of GIC Online Forms (DocuSign) and directing all members to use MyGICLink as the online tool to manage their GIC benefits. This means that GIC Online Forms will no longer be an option for GIC members to submit online enrollment/change forms for their GIC benefits effective December 15, 2025. Members will still be able to submit paper forms through the mail.

The GIC has been working with A&F-IT on this project and is partnering with coordinators to continue to encourage GIC members to use MyGICLink for all their GIC benefit enrollments or changes. The GIC is also reaching out to agencies and municipalities who do not have a high adoption rate of MyGICLink as part of this effort.