

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Announcement for Organizations Interested in Participating as One Care Plans or  
Senior Care Options (SCO) Plans**

**EHS Document Number: 23EHKAONECARESCOPROCUR**

**February 21, 2023**

MassHealth, the Massachusetts Medicaid program, has an important announcement to share with organizations interested in offering health plans through One Care or Senior Care Options (SCO).

**Procurement for One Care Plans and SCO Plans**

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) intends to conduct a procurement for One Care plans and SCO plans through an aligned Request for Responses (RFR) process. The RFR will result in One Care and SCO contracts that would provide coverage beginning in CY2026 (January 1, 2026). Through the procurement, EOHHS will select organizations to operate a One Care plan, a SCO plan, or both.

EOHHS will be selecting One Care and SCO plans through a single, aligned RFR process to leverage certain process and timing efficiencies – both for MassHealth and for prospective bidders. Despite this aligned process, One Care and SCO serve very different populations, and they will remain separate and distinct programs with care models and other requirements appropriate to each.

As of January 1, 2026, One Care will consist of Medicare Fully Integrated Dual Eligible Special Needs Plans (FIDE SNPs) with companion Medicaid managed care plans. SCO currently consists of Medicare FIDE SNPs with companion Medicaid managed care plans. Organizations selected for both products would have separate Medicaid managed care contracts with EOHHS, as well as separate Medicare Advantage contracts with CMS for each of the plans' One Care and SCO products. MassHealth expects to include a preference for contracting with organizations that will operate both One Care and SCO plans.

To operate a One Care plan or a SCO plan (or both) in CY2026, organizations must - for each product:

- 1) Be selected through the upcoming MassHealth procurement process; and
- 2) Meet all application and contracting requirements established by the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to contract with Medicare as a

FIDE SNP in Massachusetts for One Care or SCO (or both) consistent with the MassHealth procurement selection for the CY2026 Medicare plan year.

### **Medicare Contracting**

CMS will provide information about the Contract Year 2026 Notice of Intent to Apply (NOIA) key dates for the 2026 Medicare Advantage and Part D Plan application cycle in accordance with their annual schedule (expected in 2024).

The NOIA deadline will be in **November 2024** to ensure timely access to the CMS Health Plan Management System (HPMS). NOIAs are non-binding, but are a pre-requisite to initiating the contracting process with CMS to operate a One Care plan or a SCO plan for CY2026.

**All organizations interested in operating a One Care plan** in Massachusetts for CY2026 must complete the Medicare contracting process and establish a new Medicare Advantage contract number for One Care with CMS for CY2026. This requires the completion of the Medicare Advantage and SNP applications.

**Organizations interested in operating a SCO plan** in Massachusetts for CY2026 that are:

- **Currently operating a SCO plan** in Massachusetts do not need to submit a new Medicare or SNP application to CMS. SCOs that will be seeking expanded service areas as part of their bid, will need to submit the relevant Medicare Advantage and SNP applications. Other annual updates must be completed in accordance with CMS annual Medicare Advantage contracting requirements for CY2026.
- **Not currently operating a SCO plan** must complete the Medicare Advantage contracting process to operate a D-SNP in Massachusetts for SCO for CY2026. This requires the completion of the Medicare Advantage and SNP applications.

MassHealth expects to require organizations selected for both One Care and SCO products to operate separate D-SNPs (i.e., have separate Medicare Advantage contract numbers) for One Care and SCO, and that only a One Care product or a SCO product may be affiliated with the Medicare Advantage contract number.

Completion of the Medicare contracting process does not guarantee that an organization will be selected to participate as a One Care or SCO plan as part of the upcoming EOHHS procurement.

### **Expected Timeline:**

Milestone

Date

Release Procurement for One Care and SCO Plans	Late 2023 (tentative)
Bidder Responses Due	Spring 2024 (tentative)
MassHealth Plan Selection	Late 2024 (tentative)
Medicare Notice of Intent to Apply (NOIA) for CY2026 Due*	November 2024
MassHealth Readiness Reviews	Begin Early 2025
Medicare Applications Due*	February 2025
State Medicaid Agency Contracts (SMACs) Signed	May 1, 2025
Medicare Bids Due*	June 2, 2025
SMACs Submitted to CMS for Review/Approval*	July 2025
CMS (Medicare) Contracts Signed*	August 2025
Marketing and Medicare Open Enrollment*	Oct. 15 – Dec. 7, 2025
First Enrollment Effective Date*	January 1, 2026

*\*Milestone is a part of CMS' annual Medicare Advantage application and contracting process*

### **Additional Information**

Further information about the upcoming procurement process will be posted on COMMBUYS. All participation and performance requirements, including information about pricing and payment, will be described detail in the upcoming RFR. Potential bidders and interested parties are encouraged to check COMMBUYS regularly for updates.

### **Background**

**One Care** is an integrated care option for adults with disabilities ages 21-64 at the time of enrollment who are eligible for both MassHealth and Medicare. One Care enrollees can get the full set of services provided by both programs, plus additional behavioral health and community support services. The goal of One Care is to offer a better, simpler way for people with disabilities to get all the care they need and to be more independent.

#### **One Care Eligible individuals:**

- Are ages 21-64 at the time of enrollment

- Have MassHealth Standard or CommonHealth
- **Must be dual eligible** (have both MassHealth and Medicare Parts A&B coverage and be eligible for Part D)

### **MMP to D-SNP Transition Requirement**

As required by federal rule, EOHHS is planning to transition the One Care program from the Massachusetts Duals Demonstration, under which One Care currently operates, to new federal Medicare and Medicaid authority. Information about the Transition Process is available online at [One Care Transition Planning | Mass.gov](#)

**Senior Care Options** is a coordinated health plan option for adults ages 65 and older, with or without Medicare. SCO enrollees can get all of their MassHealth and Medicare services (for those enrolled in Medicare), plus additional behavioral health and home care services, through a health plan contracted with both Medicare and MassHealth.

### **SCO Eligible individuals:**

- Are age 65 or older
- Have MassHealth Standard
- **May be Medicaid-only** (have MassHealth coverage alone) **or dual eligible** (have both MassHealth and Medicare Parts A&B coverage and be eligible for Part D)
- **May** be enrolled in or eligible for the Frail Elder Waiver

### **Individuals who enroll in One Care or SCO:**

- Cannot have other comprehensive health insurance, (e.g. Third Party Liability insurance/TPL)
- Cannot be simultaneously enrolled in employer-based health insurance, or in any other Medicare Advantage Plan, Medicare Part D (Drug Plan), or in the Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)