



State of Rhode Island
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
3 West Road | Virks Building | Cranston, RI 02920

October 18, 2023

Chiquita Brooks-LaSure
Administrator
Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

Re: Rhode Island: FY 2024 Q2 HCBS E-FMAP Quarterly Spending Plan

Dear Administrator Brooks-LaSure:

The Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) Medicaid program submits for your review our HCBS E-FMAP Quarterly Spending Plan for the second quarter of FY 2024. The state has no substantive project changes since submitting the FY 2024 Q1 narrative; however, there are a handful of funding allocation changes highlighted in yellow in the attached workbook (column E.) Below are descriptions for each change.

Expanding Care Coordination

Funding for this project has been removed based on the state's inability to spend within the allowed timeframe.

System Modernization to Improve Access, Choice, & Navigation

The significant increase in funding allocated for this project is primarily driven by technology costs for the WellSky system used for conflict free case management, both from contract amendments that were not previously captured in approved plan and system development/implementation delays. It also accounts for changes to the state's MMIS system related to this implementation, including the development of a necessary interface. Additional activities outlined in the LTSS System Modernization APD are also included based on and consistent with the August 2023 approval.

Hiring & Retention Incentives

These updates reflect actual payments to providers, which differed slightly from the planning values used in the July spending plan.

Housing Projects

These updates reflect funding shifts across projects based on specific needs identified through the project development process and the state's ability to spend all allocated funds before March 31, 2025. Across all projects in the housing service category, total funding remains unchanged. State

and community partners supporting these projects will also be engaging the community specifically for quality improvement efforts, such as collecting participant feedback in order to improve service quality.

Building TBI Capacity

The state is utilizing a vendor, supported by Money Follows the Person funds, to assess the current state of TBI services and capacity in Rhode Island. The final report will also include recommendations to improve and expand capacity in the state. As this contract was only recently approved and is expected to be fulfilled a year from now, the state will have limited time to implement any recommendations using HCBS Enhanced FMAP funds. EOHHS has therefore reduced the funding allocation for this project.

Oral Health Emergency Department Diversion

As this project is still in the planning phase, EOHHS has reduced the allocation of funding for this project based on inability to spend in the allowed timeframe.

Equity Challenge Grants

Similar to the project above, EOHHS has reduced the allocation of funding for this project based on inability to spend. Additionally, EOHHS will be partnering with the state's Health Equity Zones (HEZ) to carry out this project. The approved narrative indicates that the state will pursue an RFP process, but this process has not been initiated and can be lengthy. Partnering with the 15 HEZs located throughout Rhode Island will ensure funding is spent within the allowed timeframe. These organizations are already invested in their communities and implement quickly once funding is awarded.

Based on CMS feedback, the worksheet includes the state funds equivalent to the amount of federal funds attributable to the increased FMAP. This is shown in columns N and O. Additionally, you will notice that FY24 first quarter spending for the "First Connections" project is greater than prior quarters. Due to a delay, all previous unreported quarters are included in this quarter.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Kristin Pono Sousa
Medicaid Program Director, RI EOHHS

Enclosures:

Rhode Island FY 2024 Q2 HCBS E-FMAP Quarterly Spending Plan