

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**4/25/22 PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO RHODE ISLAND MEDICAID
STATE PLAN**

In accordance Rhode Island General Laws 42-35, notice is hereby given that the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) proposes to make the following amendment to the Rhode Island State Plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act:

Prenatal First Connections Program

EOHHS is seeking approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to update Rhode Island's Medicaid State Plan to provide First Connections program services to pregnant women. The requested effective date for this SPA is April 1, 2022 and this change is expected to result in an increase in annual expenditures of approximately \$45,000 for FFY23.

This proposed amendment is accessible on the EOHHS website (www.eohhs.ri.gov) or available in hard copy upon request (401-462-2598 or RI Relay, dial 711). Interested persons should submit data, views, or written comments by May 25, 2022 to Katy Thomas, Executive Office of Health and Human Services, 3 West Rd, Cranston, RI, 02920, or Kathryn.Thomas@ohhs.ri.gov or via phone at (401) 462-2598.

In accordance with the Rhode Island General Laws 42-35-2.8, an oral hearing will be granted on the proposed State Plan Amendment if requested by twenty-five (25) persons, an agency, or by an association having at least twenty-five (25) members. A request for an oral hearing must be made within ten (10) days of this notice.

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services does not discriminate against individuals based on race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, religious belief, political belief, or handicap in acceptance for or provision of services or employment in its programs or activities.

Original signed by Ana Novais, Acting Secretary, Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Signed this 25th day of April, 2022

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1. First Connections is a risk assessment and response short-term home visiting program whose goal is the maximum reduction of physical or mental disability. It is designed to ensure that new and expectant parents of young children are connected to appropriate services and aims to connect families to necessary services at the earliest possible opportunity. On the recommendation of a licensed practitioner of the healing arts, First Connections visitors deliver services to family in the home, including:
 - a. Responding to urgent family needs within 48 hours;
 - b. Ensure that basic needs (shelter, clothing, food) are met;
 - c. Provides referrals to social services as necessary
 - d. Providing care coordination among multiple services;
2. First Connections is available to beneficiaries based on medical necessity
3. Children are primarily identified for referral through the developmental screening done at birth and are referred to certified agencies
4. Provider Qualifications
 - a. Agencies who provide the program must meet RI First Connections Certification standards.
 - i. Certification requirements include:
 1. Demonstration of commitment to linguistic and cultural competence by the entity.
 2. Plan to recruit, retain, and promote a diverse staff and leadership team.
 3. Entity assurance of equal access as outlined by the Department of Justice, Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination affecting Limited English Proficient Persons.
 - ii. Individuals providing home visits include:
 - i. Registered Nurse
 - ii. Licensed Clinical Social Worker
 - iii. Certified Community Health Worker as defined in Attachment 3.1-A Supplement to page 6.

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1905(a)13 Preventive Services

1. Payment methodology
 - a. Agencies bill the state Medicaid agency or RIDOH directly on a per-visit basis
 - b. The rates are structured to capture the cost of direct services, including intake visits and care coordination, and indirect services, such as billing activities in accordance with 2CFR 200 and the RI approved cost allocation plan.

2. Rate Increases:

EOHHS does not increase rates based on a set inflation factor on a pre-determined basis

3. Date of Effective Rates

EOHHS' rates were set as of _____2022 and are effective for services on or after that date.