



Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services

3 West Road | Virks Building | Cranston, RI 02920

ABBREVIATED PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RHODE ISLAND COMPREHENSIVE 1115 DEMONSTRATION WAIVER EXTENSION REQUEST

In accordance with 42 § CFR 431.408 and Rhode Island General Laws Chapter 42-35, notice is hereby given that the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) proposes to submit to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) its request to extend the Rhode Island Comprehensive 1115 Demonstration Waiver (11-W-00242/1) through December 31, 2028. This abbreviated notice serves to formally open the thirty (30) day public comment period, which will begin on September 30, 2022 and conclude on November 1, 2022.

Program Description

Rhode Island is submitting an extension request for its 1115 waiver. Section 1115 waivers are utilized to implement experimental, pilot, or demonstration projects found to be likely to assist in promoting the objectives of the Medicaid program. Rhode Island's 1115 waiver (hereinafter "the Demonstration") has been in place since 2009. Rhode Island's entire Medicaid program is operated under the Demonstration. The Demonstration offers a complete array of services, including medical, behavioral health, and Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), to multiple eligibility groups.

The State sees this waiver extension as an opportunity to continue to build upon its foundational aims while implementing new focused enhancements targeted at behavioral health, social determinants of health, and long-term services and supports. The State has also utilized this waiver renewal to request a number of administrative enhancements to the waiver that will promote efficiency, transparency, and flexibility. All existing beneficiaries covered by the waiver will be impacted by the extension.

The program enhancements and technical revisions requested in this Demonstration extension are each summarized below.

Program Enhancements
Home Stabilization Expansion: EOHHS seeks to expand the pool of qualified providers, expand the targeted population for home stabilization benefits, and add coverage for one (1) time transition costs.
Recuperative Care (Medical Respite) Pilot: EOHHS is seeking authority to establish a pilot program to provide short term residential care to individuals experiencing homelessness in a Recuperative Care Center to allow individuals the opportunity to rest and recover from illness or injury in a safe environment while accessing medical care and other supportive services.
Health Equity Zone (HEZ): EOHHS plans to use several managed care strategies to drive additional funding and support to the fund HEZs in its upcoming MCO procurement, and to use the Demonstration to evaluate the benefits of HEZ investment to support future federal support for HEZ expenditures.
Pre-Release Supports for Incarcerated Individuals: EOHHS is seeking federal authority to provided Medicaid coverage, including enrollment in managed care, to incarcerated individuals thirty (30) days before release to support reintegration and improve access to care upon release.



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Program Enhancements
HCBS Enhancements: EOHHS seeks to permanently continue many of the HCBS flexibilities allowed during the COVID public health emergency, including expanding access to telephonic HCBS assessments, adding remote supports service, and allowing parents to be paid to provide services to adults with disabilities.
Accountable Entities (AE): As federal funding phases out, EOHHS requests removal of the AE related sections of the demonstration but reaffirms continued state commitment to the AEs and furthering value-based payment models in Medicaid.
Managed Dental Benefits for Adults: EOHHS seeks to carve adult dental benefits into the existing RItE Smiles managed care program.

Technical Revisions
Eligibility Revisions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand postpartum coverage to 12 months Use inclusive pregnancy language in formal documentation Remove Populations 16 and 23, which are no longer active eligibility categories Expand financial limits for Budget Population 15 from 300 to 400% of SSI benefit rate
Benefit Revisions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarifying the distinction between Family/Youth Support Partners and Peer Recovery Specialists benefits Expanding access to complimentary alternative medicine to individuals with certain behavioral health conditions Codifying family home visiting services as a state plan service
Removing Inactive Programs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dental Case Management Healthy Behaviors Incentives Recovery Navigation
HCBS Benefit Clarity: EOHHS seeks to make technical revisions to the demonstration documentation to update service definitions to support transparency and benefit clarity.

The proposed extension request along with other related documentation, including the formal public notice, is accessible for public review on the EOHHS website at <https://eohhs.ri.gov/reference-center/medicaid-state-plan-and-1115-waiver/waiver-extension>. In addition, the draft documents are also available in hard copy, located at the Security Desk on the 1st floor of the Virks Building at 3 West Road, Cranston, RI 02920.

Public Hearings

During the public comment period, the public is invited to provide written comments to EOHHS via US postal service or electronic mail, as well as make comments verbally during several public hearings that will be hosted at geographically diverse locations around the state. Specifically, notice is hereby given in



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accordance with the provisions of Chapter 42-35 of the Rhode Island General Laws, as amended, that the Secretary will hold three (3) public hearings, as detailed below, at which time and place all interested persons therein will be heard on the above-mentioned matter. Public hearings will be held on the following dates, times, and locations:

Public Hearing #1	Public Hearing #2	Public Hearing #3
October 12, 2022 5:30-7:00 p.m. Pawtucket Public Library 13 Summer Street Pawtucket, RI 02860 Also available for virtual participation: Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85040776334?pwd=WIMvRHNLZnBkYkxETTBOcDN6aWo5QT09 Zoom Dial-In: 888 788 0099 Meeting ID: 850 4077 6334 Passcode: 226735	October 25, 2022 3:00-4:30 p.m. Peace Dale Library 1057 Kingstown Road Peace Dale, RI 02879 Also available for virtual participation: Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87616533965?pwd=NFFpWnJFQkVnekp4NnlicG54Z2JUZZ09 Zoom Dial-In: 888 788 0099 Meeting ID: 876 1653 3965 Passcode: 867253	October 27, 2022 5:30-7:00 p.m. Woonsocket Public Library 303 Clinton Street Woonsocket, RI 02895 Also available for virtual participation: Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81549811005?pwd=WG9ySDZBMXVvYllrMWJlY3FjUzNDUT09 Zoom Dial-In: 888 788 0099 Meeting ID: 815 4981 1005 Passcode: 132667

In addition to the above public hearings, EOHHS will also accept public comment on the proposed extension request during the Health System Transformation Project (HSTP) Accountable Entity (AE) Advisory Committee Meeting on **October 18, 2022, 8:30am at 3 West Road, Virks Building 1st Floor Training Room, Cranston, RI 02920**. Also available for virtual participation:

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84460354854?pwd=R1BydGE1ZIN4ZVNpNkxFTUd4cHR4dz09>.

Zoom Dial-In: 888 788 0099

Meeting ID: 844 6035 4854

Passcode: 311195

Public Comments

Interested persons should submit comments to EOHHS on the proposed extension on or before **November 1, 2022**. Comments can be submitted via email to OHHS.RIMedicaidWaiver@ohhs.ri.gov or by mail to Amy Katzen, Executive Office of Health and Human Services, 3 West Road, Cranston, RI 02920.

Non-Discrimination and Accommodations

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.

The Pawtucket Public Library, Peace Dale Public Library, Woonsocket Public Library, and the Virks Building are all accessible to persons with disabilities. If communication assistance (readers/ interpreters/ captioners) is needed, or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please notify the



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Executive Office at OHHS.RIMedicaidWaiver@ohhs.ri.gov or (401) 462-6222 (hearing/speech impaired, dial 711) at least three (3) business days prior to the public hearing so arrangements can be made to provide such assistance at no cost to the person requesting.

To request interpreter services at any of these events, please notify the Executive Office at OHHS.RIMedicaidWaiver@ohhs.ri.gov at least five (5) business days in advance. Interpreter services will be made available at no cost to the person requesting.

Si necesita servicios de interpretación en cualquiera de estos eventos, por favor solicítelos a la Oficina Ejecutiva al correo electrónico OHHS.RIMedicaidWaiver@ohhs.ri.gov con al menos cinco (5) días hábiles de antelación. Los servicios de interpretación están a disposición de los solicitantes de forma gratuita.

Para solicitar serviços de intérprete em qualquer um destes eventos, por favor, notifique o Gabinete Executivo através do endereço OHHS.RIMedicaidWaiver@ohhs.ri.gov com, pelo menos, cinco (5) dias úteis de antecedência. Os serviços de intérprete serão disponibilizados sem custo para a pessoa que solicita.