

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

**6/13/23 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:

First Connections Temporary Rate Increase Extension

EOHHS is seeking approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to extend a temporary rate increase to providers of First Connections services. The amendment seeks to extend an existing temporary rate increase that is due to expire July 1, 2023 and is funded with HCBS eFMAP funds that have already been appropriated. The increased rates are for visits to families with newborns from nurses, social workers, and community health workers and provide increased funding for in-take visits between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024.

These changes are proposed to take temporary effect on July 1, 2023 and end June 30, 2024. The fiscal impact is expected to be a total of approximately \$817,525 all funds across FFY23 and FFY24.

This proposed amendment is accessible on the EOHHS website (www.eohhs.ri.gov) or available in hard copy upon request (401-462-2407 or RI Relay, dial 711). Interested persons should submit data, views, or written comments by July 13, 2023 to Brittany Church, Executive Office of Health and Human Services, 3 West Rd, Cranston, RI, 02920, or Brittany.Church@ohhs.ri.gov or via phone at (401) 462-2407.

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 Richard Charest, Secretary, Rhode Island Executive Office of Health
and Human Services
Signed this 13th day of June, 2023**

Reimbursement for Preventive Services: First Connections 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. The State will provide a temporary rate increase effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024~~3~~ for the services below to stabilize the First Connections program following the high volume of referrals and need for care coordination during the COVID PHE.

Provider Type	Code	Description of Code	New Rate for Code per HCBS eFMAP Increase
010- Skilled Nursing 059- Early Intervention	99502TD	Home visit newborn care and assessment; Nurse	\$343.44
010- Skilled Nursing 059- Early Intervention	99502AJ	Home visit newborn care and assessment; Social Worker	\$271.40
010- Skilled Nursing 059- Early Intervention	99502	Home visit for newborn care and assessment	\$239.83
010- Skilled Nursing 059- Early Intervention	H1000	Prenatal care, at risk assessment	\$396.92

3. Date of Effective Rates

EOHHS' rates were set as of April 1, 2022 and are effective for services on or after that date. Effective June 30, 2024~~3~~, the temporary rate increases reflected in the table above will end and the rates will return to the amounts effective prior to July 1, 2022.