

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

**06/28/2024 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 Rate Increase

EOHHS is seeking approval from CMS to update the Medicaid State Plan to increase the rates for the First Connections program. The proposed amendment also updates the description of services and provider qualifications to reflect current practice. The first quarter of the rate increase is funded by enhanced FMAP dollars. Subsequent quarters reflect the proposed rate increase as part of the State's reimbursement rate review as included in the State Fiscal Year 2025 Budget as Enacted.

The changes have an effective date of July 1, 2024 and have an estimated fiscal impact of \$366,748 in SFY2025 and \$488,998 (all funds) in SFY 2026.

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 28, 2024 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 42-35-3, 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 Kristin Pono Sousa, Medicaid Director, Rhode Island Executive Office of
Health and Human Services
Signed this 28th day of June, 2024**

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1905(a)13 Preventive Services

13C. Preventive Services

13C.3 Family Home Visiting Program for At-Risk Families

1. A risk assessment and response short-term home visiting program whose goal is the maximum reduction of physical or mental ~~disability~~health conditions. It is designed to ensure that expectant parents are connected to appropriate services and aims to connect parents 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 expectant parents and families with infants and toddlers in the home including:
 - a. Responding to urgent parent needs, such as helping access food or medical care, within 48 hours to prevent health problems during pregnancy;
 - b. Assist with connecting parents to housing, clothing, and nutrition resources to prevent poor health and/or adverse birth outcomes;
 - c. Provides referrals to social services as necessary
 - d. Providing care coordination among multiple services;
2. Expectant parents and families with infants and toddlers are primarily identified for referral through screening done during ~~prenatal~~medical visits.
3. Provider Qualifications
 - a. Agencies who provide the program must meet RI First Connections Certification standards.
 - i. Certification requirements include:
 - Demonstration of commitment to linguistic and cultural competence by the entity.
 - Plan to recruit, retain, and promote a diverse staff and leadership team.
 - Entity assurance of equal access as outlined by the Department of Justice, Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination affecting Limited English Proficient Persons.
 - b. Individuals providing home visits include:
 - i. Registered Nurse
 - ii. Licensed Clinical Social Worker
 - iii. Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker
 - iv. Licensed Mental Health Counselor
 - ~~iv-v.~~ Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT)
 - vi. Certified Community Health Worker as defined in Attachment 3.1-A Supplement to page 6.
 - vii. Paraprofessionals with a minimum of:
 - Associate degree and one year experience providing services to families with infants and toddlers OR
 - High school diploma or equivalent and three years experience providing services to families with infants and toddlers

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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.
- ~~a.b. Payment is based on a fee schedule; The rates are accessible on the EOHHS website: <https://eohhs.ri.gov/providers-partners/fee-schedules>.~~
- ~~b.c. 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, 2023 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~~ July 1, 2022-2024 and are effective for services on or after that date. ~~Effective June 30, 2024, the temporary rate increases reflected in the table above will end and the rates will return to the amounts effective prior to July 1, 2024.~~