

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

**06/30/2022 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:

Home Health Agency Rate Increase

In order to ensure better access to home based services, EOHHS is seeking approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to update Rhode Island's Medicaid State Plan to increase reimbursement rates to enable a wage increase to an average of \$15 an hour for direct care workers. The increase is proposed to take effect on July 1, 2022 and is expected to result in an all funds increase of approximately \$7.5 million in SFY2023.

This proposed amendment is accessible on the EOHHS website (www.eohhs.ri.gov) or available in hard copy upon request (401-462-1501 or RI Relay, dial 711). Interested persons should submit data, views, or written comments by July 30, 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 42-35-3, 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 Ana Novais, Acting Secretary, Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Signed this 30th day of June, 2022

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Effective April 1, 2022, this temporary rate increase will end and the rates will return to those listed in the fee schedule effective July 1, 2021 [through June 30, 2022](https://eohhs.ri.gov/providers-partners/fee-schedules), available at <https://eohhs.ri.gov/providers-partners/fee-schedules>

Effective July 1, 2019, and each July 1 thereafter, the base rates for personal care attendant services and skilled nursing and therapeutic services, provided by home care providers and home nursing care providers, will be increased by the New England Consumer Price Index card as determined by the United States Department of Labor for medical care data that is released in March, containing the February data.

Home Health Base Rate methodology: Minimum reimbursement rates will be adjusted based on the following qualifications:

1. Staff Education and Training
 - Enhanced Reimbursement per 15-minutes for all Personal Care and Combination Personal Care/Homemaker services provided by a qualified agency.
 - Qualifications: The qualified agency must offer in-services at a frequency at least 20% over the RI Department of Health’s licensure requirement. This means that at least fourteen (14) one-hour in-services will be required in a year.
 - How to Receive Enhancement: A plan of scheduled in-service topics, dates, times and instructors should be submitted to EOHHS for the six month period following initial application for this enhancement. To continue receiving the enhanced base rate beyond the initial six-month period, the agency must submit for each in-service the title, training objectives, number of CNAs on the payroll on the date of the in-service, and a copy of the in-service sign-in sheet. Submissions should be for at least seven (7) in-services over a six-month period.
2. National Accreditation or State Agency Accreditation

National:

 - Enhanced Reimbursement per 15-minutes of Personal Care and Combination Personal Care/Homemaker services provided by a qualified agency.
 - Qualifications: An agency with current National Accreditation is entitled to this enhancement.
 - Community Health Accreditation Program (CHAP) or
 - Council on Accreditation (COA) or
 - Joint Commission for Accreditation of Healthcare Facilities (JCAHO)
 - How to Receive Enhancements: Submit current CHAP, COA or JCAHO Accreditation certificate, and copy of the most recent survey results. Submit new certificate(s) and survey results as they are completed to continue payment of the enhanced base rate.

Note: Agencies can either receive State Accreditation or National Accreditation, not both.

State:

- Enhanced Reimbursement per 15-minutes of Personal Care and Combination Personal Care/Homemaker services provided by a qualified agency. The goal of this standard is to encourage home health agencies to development and implement initiatives that result in high value, client-oriented, effective care and services.
 - Qualifications: Available to home health agencies with National Accreditation (CHAP, COA or JCAHO).
 - How to Receive Enhancement: Submit application for an on-site review and successfully meet Accreditation Standards. In addition, at the request of the home health agency, DHS will review evidence provided that demonstrates exceeding Department of Health Regulations. Evidence may be demonstrated through policy, procedures, client records, personnel records, meeting minutes, strategic plans, etc. Emphasis will be placed on how the evidence is linked between the different sources i.e. policy/procedure compliance noted in record documentation.
3. Client Satisfaction, Continuity of Care, and Worker Satisfaction