



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 ADDENDUM

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) a request to add to its request to extend the Rhode Island Comprehensive 1115 Demonstration Waiver (11-W-00242/1). This notice provides details about the waiver extension request addendum and serves to formally open the thirty (30) day public comment period, which begins on March 15, 2024 and will conclude on April 15, 2024.

Program Description

EOHHS is submitting an extension request addendum for the Rhode Island 1115 waiver (hereinafter “the Demonstration”), which has been in place since 2009 and authorizes Rhode Island’s entire Medicaid program. In December 2022, Rhode Island submitted a Demonstration extension request. The extension request contained a variety of program enhancement requests, such as a home stabilization service expansion, Recuperative Care Pilot, strategies for driving support to Health Equity Zones, authority for pre-release supports for incarcerated individuals, HCBS enhancements, and the expansion of managed dental benefits to adults. The extension request also sought a number of technical revisions to components of the waiver concerning benefits, eligibility, and programs that were no longer active. The State received a Completeness Letter for the extension request from CMS on January 5th, 2023. On September 12, 2023, the State submitted an Amendment to allow the provision of Home and Community-Based Personal Care services in acute hospital settings, in order to improve outcomes for Medicaid HCBS waiver participants receiving care in acute hospital settings. The State received a Completeness Letter for this Amendment request from CMS on September 25th, 2023.

The State now requests an addendum to the pending Demonstration extension request to continue to pursue the extension’s goals and objectives related to Health Equity, Behavioral Health, Long-Term Services & Supports, and Maintenance and Expansion on Our Record of Excellence.

The state requests the following health equity program enhancements:

- Nutrition Services: Rhode Island requests authority to provide Healthy Food Prescriptions and Medically Tailored Meals.
- Pre-Release Supports for Incarcerated Individuals: In its extension request, Rhode Island sought to obtain authority to provide an array of pre-release services to incarcerated individuals. Rhode Island seeks to update the state’s request for pre-release supports to include 90 days of pre-release coverage rather than 30 days. Rhode Island is also leveraging this extension request addendum to provide additional details related to pre-release supports.



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Rhode Island also requests authority to enhance behavioral health services:

- Contingency Management: This service is a behavioral intervention to treat substance-use disorder, including opioid and stimulant use disorders.
- Family and Youth Support Partners: Update the provider qualifications to clarify the support partner roles.

Finally, Rhode Island proposes to continue the State's efforts to ensure accuracy and clarity in Attachment B, which lists the state's Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). These proposed changes will not alter or reduce the services currently delivered to Medicaid beneficiaries. They are intended to accurately describe the source of authority for the services currently delivered and to remove references to services that have not been implemented.

These changes include:

- Preventive HCBS: Elimination of the Preventive HCBS benefit category under the waiver. Each Preventive service that is currently delivered is already authorized through the state plan and will continue to be available on the same terms as currently available.
- Core HCBS:
 - Moving Home Stabilization from Attachment B because this service is already authorized elsewhere in the waiver and is not an HCBS.
 - Modification to Consultative Clinical and Therapeutic Services to include assistance to paid support staff, to align with the definition in the HCBS Technical Guide.
 - Replacement of Day Treatment and Supports with the specific, separate services the state has implemented, including Individual, Family, and Group Therapy; Occupational, Physical, and Speech-Language Therapy; and Behavior Analysis and Management.
 - Removal from the waiver those services that 1) are duplicative of state plan services, 2) have never been implemented, or 3) are no longer implemented as distinct services.
- Home and Community-Based Therapeutic Services (HBTS):
 - Moving Coordinated Specialty Care from Attachment B because it is not an HCBS.
 - Removal from the waiver of all other HBTS services because they are duplicative of state plan and other waiver services.

The proposed extension request addendum is accessible for public review on the EOHHS website at https://eohhs.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur226/files/2024-03/RI%201115%20Waiver%20Extension%20Request%20Addendum_For%20Public%20Comment.pdf.

The formal public notice is accessible for public review on the EOHHS website at <https://eohhs.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur226/files/2024-03/RI%201115%20Waiver%20Extension%20Addendum%20Formal%20Public%20Notice.pdf>. These and other related documentation are 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.



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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 two public hearings. Specifically, notice is hereby given in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 42-35 of the Rhode Island General Laws, as amended, that the Secretary will hold two public hearings, as detailed below, at which times and places all interested persons therein will be heard on the above-mentioned matter.

Public Hearing #1	Public Hearing #2
April 4, 2024 5:00-7:00 p.m. Eastern Newport Public Library 300 Spring Street Newport, RI 02840 Also available for virtual participation: Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85755366505?pwd=d1RValJiNUdPTON6WktoaUNPMmdFdz09 Zoom Dial-In: 888-788-0099 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting ID: 857 5536 6505 • Passcode: 900653 	April 11, 2024 1:00-3:00 p.m. Eastern 3 West Road Virks Building 1st Floor Training Room Cranston, RI 02920 Also available for virtual participation: Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83258100849?pwd=bW5wRlIvTDZRRHlqdzhhRDJqcGtQUT09 Zoom Dial-In: 888-788-0099 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting ID: 832 5810 0849 • Passcode: 288364

Public Comments

Interested persons should submit comments to EOHHS on the proposed extension request addendum on or before April 15, 2024. 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 Newport Public Library and the Virks Building are both accessible to persons with disabilities. If communication assistance (readers/ interpreters/ captioners), or any other accommodation, is needed to ensure equal participation, please notify the 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, please notify the Executive Office at OHHS.RIMedicaidWaiver@ohhs.ri.gov at least five (5) business days in advance of the public hearing. Interpreter services will be made available at no cost to the person requesting.



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Si necesita servicios de interpretación, 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, 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.