

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

No. 250
Approved May 21, 2025

WHEREAS, Community health centers (CHCs) are crucial components of healthcare delivery, especially primary care; and

WHEREAS, In Rhode Island, CHCs provide family medicine, vaccinations, chronic disease management, reproductive healthcare, and more to over 200,000 residents, which is about 1 in 5 Rhode Islanders; and

WHEREAS, Designed to serve all patients, regardless of their ability to pay, CHCs have a higher proportion of uninsured or publicly insured patients compared to other healthcare facilities; and

WHEREAS, Several factors contribute to the growing financial crisis experienced by CHCs, such as rising prices of healthcare supplies and increasing patient populations. Yet, low reimbursement rates by Medicaid payers are a significant concern; and

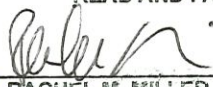

WHEREAS, Because Medicaid often reimburses less than the full cost of services, and given that the majority of CHC patients are Medicaid beneficiaries, CHCs face substantial revenue loss; and

WHEREAS, House Bill-6046 and Senate Bill-0896 aim to address this issue by increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates for medical, behavioral, and dental care, setting the minimum reimbursement at either the full cost of services or 125% of the median rate for all CHCs in Rhode Island.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Providence City Council supports the passage of these bills, as they would ensure increased Medicaid reimbursements, which would significantly help CHCs statewide, particularly Providence Community Health Centers, the largest primary healthcare provider in the city.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage, copies of this resolution be transmitted to lead sponsors Representative Serpa and Senator Burke, Speaker of the Rhode Island House of Representatives K. Joseph Shekarchi, President of the Rhode Island Senate Valarie J. Lawson, and the members of the Providence Delegation.

IN CITY COUNCIL
MAY 15 2025
READ AND PASSED


RACHEL M. MILLER, PRESIDENT

CLERK

I HEREBY APPROVE.



Mayor
Date: 5/21/25

2025 -- H 6046

LC002257

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Introduced By: Representatives Serpa, and Fellela

Date Introduced: March 07, 2025

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 40-8-26 of the General Laws in Chapter 40-8 entitled "Medical
2 Assistance" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **40-8-26. Community health centers.**

4 (a) For the purposes of this section, the term community health centers refers to federally
5 qualified health centers and rural health centers.

6 (b) To support the ability of community health centers to provide high-quality medical,
7 behavioral, and dental care to patients, the executive office of health and human services
8 ("executive office") may adopt and implement an alternative payment methodology (APM) for
9 determining a Medicaid per-visit reimbursement for community health centers that is compliant
10 with the prospective payment system (PPS) provided for in the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP
11 Benefits Improvement and Protection Act of 2000. The following principles are to ensure that the
12 APM PPS rate determination methodology is part of the executive office overall value purchasing
13 approach. For community health centers that do not agree to the principles of reimbursement that
14 reflect the APM PPS, EOHHS shall reimburse such community health centers at the federal PPS
15 rate, as required per section 1902(bb)(3) of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1396a(bb)(3). For
16 community health centers that are reimbursed at the federal PPS rate, subsections (d) through (f)
17 of this section apply.

18 (c) The APM PPS rate determination methodology will (i) Fairly recognize the reasonable
19 costs of providing services. Recognized reasonable costs will be those appropriate for the

1 organization, management, and direct provision of services and (ii) Provide assurances to the
2 executive office that services are provided in an effective and efficient manner, consistent with
3 industry standards. Except for demonstrated cause and at the discretion of the executive office, the
4 maximum reimbursement rate for a service (e.g., medical, dental, behavioral) provided by an
5 individual community health center shall ~~not exceed~~ equal the lesser of the actual cost or one
6 hundred twenty-five percent (125%) of the median rate for all community health centers within
7 Rhode Island. Actual cost shall be based on a Medicaid cost report.

8 (d) Community health centers will cooperate fully and timely with reporting requirements
9 established by the executive office.

10 (e) Reimbursement rates established through this methodology shall be incorporated into
11 the PPS reconciliation for services provided to Medicaid-eligible persons who are enrolled in a
12 health plan on the date of service. Monthly payments by the executive office related to PPS for
13 persons enrolled in a health plan shall be made directly to the community health centers.

14 (f) Reimbursement rates established through this methodology shall be incorporated into
15 the actuarially certified capitation rates paid to a health plan. The health plan shall be responsible
16 for paying the full amount of the reimbursement rate to the community health center for each
17 service eligible for reimbursement under the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Benefits
18 Improvement and Protection Act of 2000. If the health plan has an alternative payment arrangement
19 with the community health center the health plan may establish a PPS reconciliation process for
20 eligible services and make monthly payments related to PPS for persons enrolled in the health plan
21 on the date of service. The executive office will review, at least annually, the Medicaid
22 reimbursement rates and reconciliation methodology used by the health plans for community health
23 centers to ensure payments to each are made in compliance with the Medicare, Medicaid, and
24 SCHIP Benefits Improvement and Protection Act of 2000.

25 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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LC002257
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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T
RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

1 This act would require reimbursement for medical, dental, and behavioral health services
2 provided at community health care centers to equal the lesser of the actual cost, based on Medicaid
3 reports, or one hundred twenty-five percent (125%) of the median rate for all community health
4 centers within Rhode Island.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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LC002257
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2025 -- S 0896

LC002616

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Introduced By: Senator John P. Burke

Date Introduced: March 27, 2025

Referred To: Senate Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 40-8-26 of the General Laws in Chapter 40-8 entitled "Medical
2 Assistance" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **40-8-26. Community health centers.**

4 (a) For the purposes of this section, the term community health centers refers to federally
5 qualified health centers and rural health centers.

6 (b) To support the ability of community health centers to provide high-quality medical,
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16 community health centers that are reimbursed at the federal PPS rate, subsections (d) through (f)
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18 (c) The APM PPS rate determination methodology will (i) Fairly recognize the reasonable
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1 organization, management, and direct provision of services and (ii) Provide assurances to the
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24 SCHIP Benefits Improvement and Protection Act of 2000.

25 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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LC002616
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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T
RELATING TO HUMAN SERVICES -- MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

1 This act would require reimbursement for medical, dental, and behavioral health services
2 provided at community health care centers to equal the lesser of the actual cost, based on Medicaid
3 reports, or one hundred twenty-five percent (125%) of the median rate for all community health
4 centers within Rhode Island.

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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LC002616
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