

**PROPOSED CHANGES IN METHODS AND STANDARDS FOR ESTABLISHING  
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PAYMENT RATES**

**STATE OF ILLINOIS  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTHCARE AND FAMILY SERVICES**

**Date: February 28, 2025**

The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) is proposing changes in the methods and standards of payment to providers to be compliant with the federal requirements. The proposed change is effective for dates of service on or after March 1, 2025.

The Department is proposing to submit a state plan amendment to clarify Illinois' compliance with federal requirements as they relate to transportation services. As described in regulations at [42 C.F.R. § 440.170\(a\)](#), transportation includes travel related expenses determined to be necessary by the Medicaid agency to secure covered services. Related travel expenses may include the cost of meals, lodging, and costs that may be incurred by non-employee attendants accompanying patients in long-distance transportation. Reimbursement rates for necessary food and lodging are established by the federal government's General Services Administration.

This proposed change is anticipated to increase expenditures by \$2.2 million annually for services provided through fee-for-service or through managed care organizations. The proposed change is subject to approval by the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and may be modified or revised during the approval process.

Any interested party may submit questions or comments concerning these proposed changes in reimbursement methods and standards. Comments received regarding this notice shall be published on the HFS web site at <https://hfs.illinois.gov/info/legal/publicnotices.html>. It is recommended to include the name of the public notice in the subject line. All questions or comments must be submitted in writing within thirty (30) days of the publication date of this notice and addressed to:

Bureau of Program and Policy Coordination  
Division of Medical Programs  
Healthcare and Family Services  
201 South Grand Avenue East  
Springfield, IL 62763-0001  
E-mail address: [HFS.BPPC@illinois.gov](mailto:HFS.BPPC@illinois.gov)

The notice may be viewed at the DHS local offices (except in Cook County). In Cook County, the notice may be reviewed at the Office of the Director, Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, 401 South Clinton Street, 1st Floor, Chicago, Illinois.

This notice is being provided in accordance with federal requirements found at 42 CFR 447.205.