

Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services: FY26 Introduced Budget Questions and Answers

1. Can you respond to what increases, if any, HFS has for MH services?
 - A. HFS' proposed budget includes \$27.7 million (new item) to create a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) network within Illinois, \$191.8 million (an increase of \$87.2 million) for Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHCs), \$4 million gross funding for the implementation of the 1115 waiver, and \$132.8 million (an \$82.2 million increase) for Pathways to Success.
2. Does the proposed budget include the state funding to draw down federal match for Medicaid 1115 waiver infrastructure funds for implementation?
 - A. Yes, \$2M net GRF within an overall \$4 million gross funding amount assumed in the introduced budget. HFS received approval for its 1115 waiver, allowing HFS to move forward with providing groundbreaking Medicaid coverage of health-related social needs and pre-release services for individuals leaving carceral settings.
3. How many Illinois residents are served by PACE?
 - A. Current enrollment is 76 individuals. The FY26 budget projects the program to cover up to 260 individuals.
4. How many grants will the City of Chicago be awarded for the Navigation Program?
 - A. The Illinois Navigator Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) was released in June of 2024. Five grantees were awarded to support the statewide Navigator Program. The City of Chicago was not one of the awarded grantees, but the five grantees serve individuals within the City of Chicago.
5. How much revenue does HFS expect from the hospital assessment to fund other health services?
 - A. The remaining transfers remain unchanged at \$20 to the Health and Human Services Medicaid Trust Fund and \$30 million to the Long-Term Care Provider Fund.
6. Will HFS maintain emergency coverage for HBI adults? Will this still be done via managed care?
 - A. Yes, HFS will maintain emergency services coverage for HBIA. No, this will be covered by fee for service.
7. The Department received multiple inquiries regarding dental rates.
 - A. *Significant steps have been taken, as detailed below:*
 - i. **2021:** The Dental Cares Act awarded approximately \$10M to over 75 dentists.
 - ii. **January 2022:** An additional \$10M was allocated to increase dental rates.
 - iii. **January 2023:** Another \$10M was added to the dental rates.
 - iv. **2022:** HFS implemented a change allowing Public Health Dental Hygienists to provide preventative services in schools.
 - v. **2023:** \$5M was earmarked for more complex dental cases. With input from the Dental Policy Review Committee, the cap on dental anesthesia was removed to allow for more sedation in these challenging cases.
 - vi. **2023-2024:** HFS collaborated with the Illinois State Dental Society to make recommended changes to the HLD Orthodontic Scoring Tool and Rule, potentially amounting to \$12M annually.

- vii. **Anesthesia Changes:** HFS now permits Medicaid Anesthesiologists to bill dental "D" codes for anesthesia during dental procedures, participating hospitals can bill G0330 for dental-related hospital cases, and starting January 2025, four dental anesthesia codes will receive a 33% increase.

HFS remains committed to enhancing the Medicaid Dental Program. However, in order to address the issue of wait times, especially in downstate areas, the enrollment and active participation of the dental community, especially in the downstate area, is crucial to resolving the ongoing issue of long wait times. This is an issue that HFS cannot solve alone. Your interest and advocacy are appreciated.

2020 HFS Cares Act Provider Notice:

<https://hfs.illinois.gov/medicalproviders/notices/notice.prn201106a.html>

2022 Dental Rate Increase \$10M: Provider Notice Issued 11/22/2021 (illinois.gov) (also attached)

2023 Dental Rate Increase \$10M: Provider Notice Issued 12/21/2022 (illinois.gov) (also attached)

MCO/Dental Plans: Health Plans and their Subcontractor contact information (illinois.gov)

8. Can you explain the Federal Republican proposals that seek deep cuts to Medicaid and how would they impact Illinois?
- A. We are following proposals closely because they could be truly devastating to people in Illinois. Two that have gotten a lot of press coverage; One is the proposal to repeal the ACA Medicaid expansion. There are roughly 770,000 on ACA in Illinois (22% of customers) if this is repealed and we would lose up to \$7.4 billion in federal funding. Since expansion took affect in 2014, the uninsured rate has decreased by 44%. The other proposal includes changes to FMAP and would create a per member cap and would force states to find new revenue sources, cut enrollees, or cut services.
9. What is the status of the Department's Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) demonstration since Illinois was chosen to participate last year?
- A. We were selected in June to participate and by October 2024 we had 19 CCBHCs participating in the program. They offer mental health care and substance abuse treatment. Participating clinics must help anyone seeking treatment regardless of age and ability to pay.