



# HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COALITION

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## OF RHODE ISLAND

The Honorable Marvin Abney  
House Committee on Finance  
82 Smith Street, Providence, RI 02903

### **FY 2026 BUDGET – ARTICLE 8: MEDICAL ASSISTANCE**

Chairman Abney and Members of the House Finance Committee,

The Health and Human Service Coalition would like to thank the General Assembly and the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC) for conducting a comprehensive Social and Human Service Rate Review. After extensive analysis OHIC issued evidence-based recommendations to ensure equitable rates across behavioral health services, home- and community-based services, children’s services, substance use and mental health services, services for older adults and services for individuals with disabilities.

**Rhode Island’s health and human service providers are the backbone of our healthcare system. Investments made through Article 8 directly determine whether these providers have the resources needed to sustain access to care across our state**

When these services are underfunded, individuals in need end up in emergency rooms, inpatient psychiatric beds, and acute hospital settings. Underinvestment in community care directly increases strain on our already overburdened hospital system, and higher utilization of police, fire, and rescue services.

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services estimated that fully implementing those recommendations would require approximately \$117 million across fee-for-service and managed care Medicaid, \$46 million of which would be funded by general revenue. However, the current proposal funds only a portion of those recommendations.

It is critical that the General Assembly sets the precedent of fully funding these rate recommendations in accordance with the legislative intent of the 2022 law. The General Assembly did not authorize the Social and Human Service Rate Review as a symbolic exercise, it directed OHIC to conduct a rigorous, data-driven process to establish sustainable, equitable reimbursement rates that reflect the true cost of delivering care. Failing to fully implement



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those recommendations undermines that intent and weakens confidence in the integrity of the rate-setting process. By fully funding the reviewed rates, the State affirms its commitment to evidence-based policymaking, workforce stability, and ensuring that community-based providers can meet the needs of Rhode Islanders now and into the future.

Investing in community-based services is an investment in every one of Rhode Island's 39 cities and towns, in the hundreds of thousands of residents who rely on Medicaid, and in the tens of thousands of frontline workers who form the backbone of our care system. These dollars do not disappear, they circulate through our local economies, stabilize families, sustain jobs, and draw down significant federal Medicaid matching funds that multiply the impact of every state investment. By fully funding these services, Rhode Island can strengthen its workforce, relieve pressure on hospitals, and build a healthcare system that is more stable, more equitable, and better prepared to meet the needs of our communities for years to come.

Sincerely,

The Health and Human Services Coalition of Rhode Island

*Community Provider Network of Rhode Island*

*Horizon Healthcare Partners*

*Mental Health Association of Rhode Island*

*Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families*

*Rhode Island Health Center Association*

*RIPIN*

*Senior Agenda Coalition of Rhode Island*

*Substance Use and Mental Health Leadership Council*



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SERVICES COALITION**  
**OF RHODE ISLAND**

CC:

Representative Scott Slater

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Representative Karen Alzate

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