



March 25, 2026

The Honorable Teresa Tanzi  
Chair, Subcommittee on Human Services  
House Committee on Finance  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

Re: H7127, Governor's FY 2027, FY 2026 Revised and Capital Budgets, EOHHS

Dear Chairwoman Tanzi and Members of the Human Services Subcommittee:

My name is David Martins, and I serve as Director of AIDS Project Rhode Island (APRI), a program of Family Service of Rhode Island. Through funding administered by the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS), APRI provides essential Ryan White services to Rhode Islanders living with HIV.

We are grateful that the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC) has approved rate increases that will better align reimbursement with the real cost of providing services. However, phasing these increases in gradually over multiple years extends the existing financial strain on providers.

For many years, Medicaid reimbursement rates for HIV Non-Medical Case Management have not kept pace with the actual cost of providing care, even as the complexity of client needs continues to grow. Case management is the heart of the HIV care continuum, helping individuals living with HIV navigate housing instability, behavioral health needs, transportation barriers, food insecurity, and other social determinants that directly impact treatment adherence and positive health outcomes. Through Ryan White programming, skilled case managers ensure that clients remain connected to medical care, medications, and supportive services necessary to achieve and maintain viral suppression — outcomes that not only save lives, but also prevent new HIV transmissions and reduce long-term healthcare costs. Stable access to high-quality case management is therefore both a public health priority and an investment in healthier communities. We are concerned that stability is at risk, as providers have been informed to expect some funding gaps in Ryan White.

We respectfully urge the State, through the FY2027 EOHHS budget, to implement OHIC-approved rate increases immediately rather than distributing them incrementally over several years. Timely implementation will help stabilize the provider network, support workforce retention, and ensure uninterrupted access to care for Rhode Islanders living with HIV. Rhode Island has made significant progress in improving HIV outcomes, and continued investment in the infrastructure that supports individuals living with HIV is essential to maintaining that progress. Prompt implementation of these rate adjustments are a strategic investment in public health, and the well-being of vulnerable Rhode Islanders.



Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to ensuring access to high-quality care for individuals living with HIV. We look forward to working together with EOHHS and the legislature to further understand the implications of the challenges we face, and to address those challenges together.

Sincerely,

David M. Martins  
Director, AIDS Project Rhode Island  
Family Service of Rhode Island