

Social and human service programs review: Eligibility standards

Rhode Island, Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner

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Background

Milliman has been retained by the State of Rhode Island Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC) to conduct a comprehensive review of all social and human service programs having a contract with or licensed by the state, inclusive of the State of Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) and the state agencies under its purview. This comprehensive review is required by State of Rhode Island General Laws (RIGL) § 42-14.5-3(t). This statute requires 10 assessments covering various rate and programmatic elements of the social and human service programs, with the 10th assessment being a culmination of the prior nine assessments, which will result in recommended rate adjustments. For purposes of this review, social and human service programs include services in the following subject areas: social, mental health, developmental disability, child welfare, juvenile justice, prevention services, habilitative, rehabilitative, substance use disorder treatment, residential care, adult/adolescent day services, vocational, employment and training, and aging.

The assessments will be completed in two phases with Phase One published in May 2023 and Phase Two published by September 1, 2023. The first phase will include the first nine assessments with a limited scope of services. The second phase will include updates of the first nine assessments with additional services as well as the 10th report. Milliman is currently working with OHIC to determine the breadth of services that may be included in each assessment in Phase Two of the social and human service programs review.

This report is Phase One of task 2: “an assessment and detailed reporting on eligibility standards and processes of social and human service programs.”¹ This report provides a comprehensive overview of the health and human service programs offered by the State of Rhode Island and includes the eligibility standards for the in-scope programs.

Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of the eligibility standards for state-provided social and human services within the State of Rhode Island. The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) is the lead agency for social services in Rhode Island, overseeing the Department of Human Services (DHS), the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), the Department of Health (DOH), and the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals (BHDDH).

This Phase One report reviews the eligibility criteria for each program, provides a brief overview of the services that eligible persons may receive, and describes the application process. Figure 1 provides an inventory of the programs that are considered in-scope for this report, based upon the definition found in RIGL 42-14.5. This report provides a comprehensive yet concise summary of the factors reviewed for these social and human services while providing the most key details of a wide array of programs. This report also provides links to sources of additional program information and links to key forms or applications.

Many social and human services are offered through the state’s Medicaid program; as such, this report provides detailed analysis of the eligibility criteria and application processes for all Medicaid programs. The majority of services delivered by the Medicaid program in Rhode Island fall under a type of federal authority called an 1115 demonstration waiver. A Section 1115 demonstration waiver is a Medicaid waiver authorized under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act that gives the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) the authority to approve experimental, pilot, or demonstration projects that are likely to assist in promoting the objectives of the Medicaid program.² Rhode Island has structured its waiver as a “global” 1115 demonstration waiver, including services for those in Rlte Care, Rhody Health Partners, Rlte Share, and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).³

¹ Powers and Duties. RIGL § 42-14.5-3(t) (2022). See <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE42/42-14.5/42-14.5-3.HTM>.

² Medicaid.gov. About Section 1115 Demonstrations. Retrieved May 23, 2023, from <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/section-1115-demonstrations/about-section-1115-demonstrations/index.html>.

³ CMS (July 28, 2020). Rhode Island Comprehensive Demonstration. Retrieved May 23, 2023, from <https://www.medicaid.gov/Medicaid-CHIP-Program-Information/By-Topics/Waivers/1115/downloads/ri/ri-global-consumer-choice-compact-ca.pdf>.

While a wide variety of services are available under Rhode Island's Medicaid program, the pathways to access these services may vary. In this report we provide information on named Medicaid programs like RIte Care and Rhody Health Partners in order to highlight the different eligibility criteria and services that are available based upon the program within the 1115 waiver in which an individual is enrolled. Additionally, it is noted that home and community-based services (HCBS) received through Medicaid are not a distinct program (they are a set of services that an individual may be eligible to receive), yet these services have their own eligibility criteria and process for becoming eligible. As such, this report also provides detailed eligibility information specific to these services.

The processes for applying for specific programs vary greatly, which is generally consistent with other states when considering the full range of social and human services. Medicaid and many programs run by the Rhode Island Department of Health (DOH) utilize a common application form that is available online to print and mail or complete via the customer portal and submit electronically.⁴ This form is the way individuals may apply for all Medicaid programs, as well as RI Works, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and the Child Care Assistance Program. The printable (paper) application is available on the Rhode Island Department of Human Services (DHS) website at: <https://dhs.ri.gov/apply-now>. The online customer portal, which is called HealthSource RI, is located at: <https://healthyrhode.ri.gov/HIXWebI3/DisplayHomePage>. Other programs have a variety of different application forms and processes, each noted in the program summary section below.

Not all programs summarized in this report have an application process. Some are available only by referral from a provider, some are open to all Rhode Islanders without need for an application, and others may be assigned based upon a court order or because the individual is under the purview of the child welfare system. For programs of these types, which do not have eligibility criteria or application processes, this report provides a program summary, the responsibilities and process of the program, and pathways for entry. This applies to programs operated under the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), including foster care and adoption, the work of the family services unit, the work of the Community Services and Behavioral Health Unit, and the work of the licensing unit. This also applies to the Lead Poisoning Prevention program under the Rhode Island Department of Health.

Phase Two of this report will provide an assessment and evaluation of eligibility criteria and program processes for a subset of programs and services. This report will provide substantive evaluation of the enrollment and eligibility processes to look for leading practices or possible opportunities for improvements. We will compare practices in Rhode Island with best practices in the region.

Figure 1 details the in-scope programs for this report. Programs marked with a pinwheel symbol (⌘) are targeted for possible further evaluation in Phase Two of this project.

⁴ See the HealthSource RI website at: <https://healthyrhode.ri.gov/HIXWebI3/DisplayHomePage>.

FIGURE 1: PROGRAM INVENTORY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND PROCESS REVIEW

| Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) | |
|--|--|
| ▪ Rlte Care | ▪ Medicaid Expansion |
| ▪ Rhody Health Partners | ▪ Home and Community Based Services  |
| ▪ Rlte Smiles | ▪ Rlte Share |
| ▪ Connect Care Choice | ▪ Program for all-inclusive care for the elderly |
| ▪ Medicare Premium Payment Program | ▪ Rhode Island Early Intervention |
| ▪ Cedar Family Services  | |
| Department of Human Services (DHS) | |
| ▪ Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) | ▪ Child Care Assistance Program |
| ▪ Head Start | ▪ Refugee Assistance Program |
| ▪ SSI Enhanced Assisted Living Program | ▪ Katie Beckett |
| ▪ Sherlock Plan | ▪ Vocational Rehabilitation |
| ▪ Disability Determination Services | ▪ Business Enterprises Program |
| ▪ Independent Living and Social Services | ▪ Rhode Island Works |
| ▪ Assistive Technology Access Partnership | ▪ Adaptive Telephone Equipment Loan Program |
| ▪ Ombudsman Program | ▪ Elder Protective Services |
| ▪ Rhode Island Pharmaceutical Assistance to Elders Program | ▪ DigiAGE |
| ▪ Veterans Crisis Line | ▪ Veterans Home |
| Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals (BHDDH) | |
| ▪ Community Mental Health Services Block Grant | ▪ Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant |
| ▪ Eleanor Slater Hospital | ▪ Rhode Island Psychiatric Hospital |
| ▪ Shared Living Arrangement | ▪ Rhode Island Community Living and Supports |
| ▪ Access to Independence | ▪ Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) |
| Department of Health (DOH) | |
| ▪ Lead Poisoning Prevention | ▪ Nurse Family Partnership |
| ▪ State Tobacco Quitline/RI Nicotine Helpline | ▪ Women's Cancer Screening Program |
| ▪ WISEWOMAN | ▪ Women, Infants and Children |
| Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) | |
| ▪ Family First Prevention Service  | ▪ Family Care Community Partnerships  |
| ▪ Child Protective Services | ▪ Family Services Unit |
| ▪ Foster Care and Adoption | ▪ Licensing |
| ▪ Community Services and Behavioral Health  | ▪ Rhode Island Training School |
| ▪ Youth Diversion Programming | ▪ Wayward disobedient Programs |

Medicaid Eligibility and Application Processes

Many human and social services are primarily funded through Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Gaining eligibility for Medicaid or CHIP is often the first step to receiving state-funded social services.

Medicaid offers services to individuals based on eligibility groups.⁵ These groupings impact the eligibility criteria, the services beneficiaries are eligible to receive, and the percentage of funding for a beneficiary's services that comes from the federal government.⁶ Medicaid is a federal and state partnership, with funding for programs and coverage coming from both parties. States determine an individual's eligibility for Medicaid based on several factors, depending on the program, including age, income, health/disability status, pregnancy status, and personal financial resources. There are two methods for determining Medicaid eligibility. Each is described below.

Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) is one methodology for determining eligibility for Medicaid and CHIP.⁷ The MAGI methodology is used for most children, pregnant women, Medicaid expansion adults, and low-income families. The MAGI eligibility standard was established by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA).⁸ This standard considers an individual's or family's taxable income but does not consider assets in determining eligibility. Financial eligibility for Medicaid programs is based upon the federal poverty level (FPL) and is adjusted for family size. A disregard of 5% of income is made if needed to find the individual eligible, which is why Medicaid expansion eligibility (133% FPL) is sometimes expressed as 138% of FPL (133% + 5%).⁹

Those who are eligible based upon age, blindness, or disability establish eligibility using a different methodology. These categories of eligibility utilize Supplemental Security Income (SSI) standards.¹⁰ This methodology is based upon financial criteria but also requires the individual to be 65 or older, to be legally blind, or to have been determined to be disabled.¹¹ For financial eligibility criteria, this method considers earned income and other sources of income, e.g., food or housing that others provide and other benefits an individual receives.¹² These categories often include a higher income limit, but also consider assets or resources of the individual as part of the financial calculation.¹³ If a disability determination is needed, that is done at the state level using federal criteria.¹⁴

Figure 2 provides the financial criteria for eligibility by population for Rhode Island Medicaid.

In order to be eligible for Rhode Island Medicaid programs, an individual must be a resident of Rhode Island, a citizen of the United States, or a legally present noncitizen who has been in the United States for five years and meets certain exemptions, and must meet the age, income, and disability criteria established for each program.¹⁵

⁵ Medicaid. List of Medicaid Eligibility Groups. Retrieved May 23, 2023, from <https://www.medicaid.gov/sites/default/files/2019-12/list-of-eligibility-groups.pdf>.

⁶ HHS. Federal Medical Assistance Percentages or Federal Financial Participation in State Assistance Expenditures (FMAP). ASPE Office of the Assistant Secretary of Planning and Evaluation. Retrieved May 23, 2023, from <https://aspe.hhs.gov/federal-medical-assistance-percentages-or-federal-financial-participation-state-assistance>.

⁷ Medicaid.gov. Medicaid Eligibility. Retrieved May 23, 2023, from <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/eligibility/index.html>.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Social Security Administration. Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Retrieved May 23, 2023, from <https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-income-ussi.htm>.

¹¹ Medicaid Eligibility, op cit.

¹² Supplemental Security Income (SSI), op cit.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Medicaid Eligibility, op cit.

FIGURE 2: FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY FOR FULL MEDICAID

| Group | Income* | Resource Limitations |
|--|----------------------------|---|
| MAGI | | |
| Children and Young Adult | Up to 261% FPL | N/A |
| Pregnant Women | Up to 253% FPL | N/A |
| Low Income Parent/Caretaker | Up to 136% FPL | N/A |
| ACA Expansion Adults | Up to 133% FPL | N/A |
| Non-MAGI | | |
| Adults with Disability, Special Needs or At Risk of LTC | Up to 250% FPL | |
| | Up to 300% SSI | \$2,000 individual/\$3,000 couple for SSI |
| Disabled Children | Up to 300% SSI | \$2,000 |
| Working Disabled Adults | Up to 200% FPL | \$4,000 individual/\$6,000 couple |
| | Up to 250% FPL with buy in | \$10,000 individual/\$20,000 couple |

*These percentages do not include the possible 5% disregard for MAGI groups.

The federal poverty level guidelines are reviewed and updated each year. Figure 3 outlines the poverty level established for 2023 and translates that income amount to the FPL standards that are utilized for programs in Rhode Island.

FIGURE 3: 2023 POVERTY GUIDELINES¹⁶

| Family/Household Size | Poverty Guideline (100% of Poverty) | 133% FPL | 250% FPL | 253% FPL | 261% FPL |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | \$14,580 | \$19,391 | \$36,450 | \$36,887 | \$38,054 |
| 2 | \$19,720 | \$26,228 | \$49,300 | \$49,892 | \$51,469 |
| 3 | \$24,860 | \$33,064 | \$62,150 | \$62,896 | \$64,885 |
| 4 | \$30,000 | \$39,900 | \$75,000 | \$75,900 | \$78,300 |
| 5 | \$35,140 | \$46,736 | \$87,850 | \$88,904 | \$91,715 |
| 6 | \$40,280 | \$53,572 | \$100,700 | \$101,908 | \$105,131 |
| 7 | \$45,420 | \$60,409 | \$113,550 | \$114,913 | \$118,546 |
| 8 | \$50,560 | \$67,245 | \$126,400 | \$127,917 | \$131,962 |

Note: For families or households with more than eight persons, the calculation adds \$5,140 for each additional person.

Medicaid application process

Rhode Islanders can apply for Medicaid programs online, in person, or using paper forms submitted to the Department of Human Services. The application can be found online at HealthSource RI.¹⁷ Federal Medicaid regulations require states to make an eligibility determination on MAGI applications within 45 days.¹⁸

Figure 4 outlines Rhode Island application processing timelines for a recent reporting month.

¹⁶ Annual Update of the HHS Poverty Guidelines (January 19, 2023). Federal Register Vol 88, Page 3424. Retrieved May 23, 2023, from <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2023-01-19/pdf/2023-00885.pdf>.

¹⁷ See <https://healthyrhode.ri.gov/HIXWeb13/DisplayHomePage>.

¹⁸ Code of Federal Regulations 42 CFR §435.912 (1979). Timely determination for eligibility. Retrieved May 23, 2023, from <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-42/chapter-IV/subchapter-C/part-435/subpart-J/subject-group-ECFR2b847721e0bfa03/section-435.912>.

FIGURE 4: MAGI APPLICATION PROCESSING TIME SNAPSHOT (SEPTEMBER 2022¹⁹), RHODE ISLAND

| Time to Process | <24 hours | 1-7 days | 8-30 days | 31-45 days | >45 days |
|----------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|------------|----------|
| Percentage Processed | 61% | 16% | 12% | 2% | 8% |

For individuals who are seeking eligibility in an aged, blind, or disabled category, the application process is slightly different. While the same application is utilized, the process of eligibility determination can involve an interview between the state eligibility worker and the applicant. As noted above, financial eligibility for these groups includes assets when determining eligibility. Meaning applicants must also provide additional information regarding any assets like cash, investments, life insurance, cars, and homes. For individuals who are seeking a disability determination, federal regulations require states to make a disability determination within 90 days.²⁰

The Disability Determination Services (DDS) Unit within DHS makes determinations for anyone seeking a disability determination for federal Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Within the DDS Unit, the Medicaid Review Team completes the medical review to determine whether an individual has a qualifying disability. The process and criteria utilized by DDS and the Medicaid Review Team are established at the federal level by the Social Security Administration. Then Rhode Island determined financial criteria, as outlined above, are applied to determine the appropriate eligibility category for the individual. The State of Rhode Island accepts the disability determinations for Medicaid eligibility as well and anyone determined eligible for SSI is automatically eligible for Medicaid.

Program Summaries

For each program in scope, this report provides a description and key information about the program that may include eligibility criteria, the application process, and the services that are offered by the program. Of the 55 programs and services that are described in this report, 48 can be described using this format. The remaining seven programs are not meaningfully described using eligibility criteria or application processes. For these programs, this report provides a program summary, the responsibilities and process of the program, and pathways for entry. This applies to programs operated under DCYF including foster care and adoption, the work of the Family Services Unit, the work of the Community Services and Behavioral Health Unit, and the work of the Licensing Unit.

In reviewing programs, we observed that some program application processes are formal and structured, requiring documentation of income, assets, and medical history. Other program application processes are simpler, requiring only a request for the service. Most applications are accepted in multiple formats that allow an individual to apply over the phone, by mail, or online. The programs in the summaries below are listed under the state agency and department that has primary oversight for the program operations.

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) is the lead agency for social services in Rhode Island, overseeing the Department of Human Services (DHS), Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), the Department of Health (DOH), and the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities, and Hospitals (BHDDH). Additionally, EOHHS is the single state agency that administers the Medicaid program in Rhode Island. The mission of EOHHS is "to ensure access to high quality and cost-effective services that foster the health,

¹⁹ Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services (March 10, 2023). MAGI Application Processing Time Snapshot Report: July 2022-September 2022. Retrieved May 23, 2023, from <https://www.medicaid.gov/state-overviews/downloads/magi-app-process-time-snapshot-rpt-jul-sep-2022.pdf>.

²⁰ Code of Federal Regulations 20 CFR § 404.1601 (1981). Subpart Q—Determinations of Disability. Retrieved May 23, 2023, from <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-20/chapter-III/part-404/subpart-Q>.

safety, and independence of all Rhode Islanders.”²¹ Program eligibility information for EOHHS programs is described below.

RITE CARE

Rlte Care provides comprehensive medical coverage for qualifying families with children, pregnant women, and children under 19.²² Rlte Care is a managed care program. Individuals and families have a choice of three participating health plans: Tufts Health Plan, Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island, and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan.²³

Eligibility

- Children up to 261% FPL
- Pregnant women up to 185% FPL
- This program also serves individuals who have incomes over the Medicaid limitations and who qualify for the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Pregnant women up to 253% FPL are covered through CHIP.

Available Services

Comprehensive medical coverage including doctor’s visits, lab work, hospital care, emergency care, maternity and newborn care, mental health and substance abuse treatment, eye care, prescription and over-the-counter drugs, and preventive care services.

Home and community-based services (HCBS) are available to individuals in the Rlte Care program who also meet criteria for high needs services.

Application Process

Applications may be completed online, by phone, or by paper application. The paper application is available on the DHS website at: <https://dhs.ri.gov/apply-now>. The online application is on the customer portal at HealthSource RI at: <https://healthyrhode.ri.gov/HIXWebI3/DisplayHomePage>.

MEDICAID EXPANSION

Medicaid expansion provides coverage for the adult population identified under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.²⁴ Individuals have a choice of three participating health plans: Tufts Health Plan, Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island, and UnitedHealthcare Community Plan.²⁵

Eligibility

- Individuals aged 19 to 64 eligible as a Medicaid expansion adult
- Individuals up to 133% FPL

Available Services

Comprehensive medical coverage including doctor’s visits, lab work, hospital care, emergency care, maternity and newborn care, mental health and substance abuse treatment, prescription drugs, and preventive care services.

Application Process

Applications may be completed online, by phone, or by paper application. The paper application is available on the DHS website at: <https://dhs.ri.gov/apply-now>. The online application is on the customer portal at HealthSource RI at: <https://healthyrhode.ri.gov/HIXWebI3/DisplayHomePage>.

²¹ See the EOHHS website at: <https://eohhs.ri.gov/>.

²² EOHHS. Rlte Care. Retrieved May 23, 2023, from <https://eohhs.ri.gov/Consumer/FamilieswithChildren/RlteCare.aspx>.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Medicaid Eligibility, op cit.

²⁵ CMS (July 28, 2020), Rhode Island Comprehensive Demonstration, op cit.

RHODY HEALTH PARTNERS

Rhody Health Partners provides comprehensive health coverage for individuals who are aged, blind, or disabled and not enrolled in Connect Care Choice. Rhody Health Partners is a managed care program with UnitedHealthcare Community Plan as the only participating health plan.²⁶

Eligibility

- Individuals 21 or older who are eligible based on their aged, blind, or disabled status
- Individuals who are eligible as a Medicaid expansion adult but have additional medical needs for services beyond those covered in Rlte Care
- To qualify for this program an individual must not be institutionalized

Available Services

Comprehensive medical coverage including doctor's visits, lab work, hospital care, emergency care, maternity and newborn care, mental health and substance abuse treatment, prescription drugs, and preventive care services. For individuals with special healthcare needs, additional services are available, such as home care services, hospice, adult day health, nursing home care for up to 30 days, dental, and nonemergency medical transportation.

Home and community-based services are available to individuals in Rhody Health Partners who also meet criteria for high needs services.

Application Process

Applications may be completed online, by phone, or by paper application. The paper application is available on the DHS website at: <https://dhs.ri.gov/apply-now>. The online application is on the customer portal at HealthSource RI at: <https://healthyrhode.ri.gov/HIXWeb13/DisplayHomePage>.

HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES (HCBS)

HCBS offer services that support an individual living in the community who might otherwise be at risk for placement in a nursing facility or other institutional setting. These services are offered based on the individual level of care (LOC), with three service packages, CORE, Preventive, and Therapeutic HCBS.

Eligibility

While HCBS is not a distinct program, this grouping of services is critical to the understanding of social services in Rhode Island. For individuals served by the Medicaid program, there is an additional process to become eligible for these services. Home and community-based services are only available to Medicaid-covered individuals (including those in the Rlte Care program or Rhody Health Partners) who have been determined to have an intellectual or developmental disability (I/DD) or who meet LOC criteria for these services. A LOC assessment will place eligible individuals into one of the following categories:

Highest: "The 'Highest' level of care is for beneficiaries who are determined based on medical need to require the institutional level of care. This population will receive services through nursing homes, long-term care hospitals, or Intermediate Care Facility for individuals with Intellectual disability ICF/IDs."²⁷ Individuals who meet institutional LOC may choose community-based care, including services listed in Figure 5.

High: "The 'High' level of care is for beneficiaries who are determined based on medical need to benefit from either the institutional level of care or a significant level of home and community-based services."²⁸ Individuals in this group will have access to the services listed in Figure 5.

Preventive: "The preventive level of care is provided to beneficiaries that can demonstrate that the service will improve or maintain their abilities and/or prevent the need for more intensive services."²⁹ Beneficiaries in this group have access to the services listed in Figure 6 below.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Ibid.

Home and community-based therapeutic services: These services, listed in Figure 7 below, are available to Medicaid beneficiaries at least 21 years of age who have at least one of the following:

- a chronic condition such as arthritis, asthma, diabetes, heart disease, special needs (such as autism), and diseases (such as cancer); or
- a behavioral health diagnosis; a neurological diagnosis; or
- significant impairment in functioning level as determined by a validated screening tool.³⁰

Available services

Available services are determined by the LOC for the individual and may include those shown in Figure 5.

FIGURE 5: CORE SERVICES FOR THOSE WITH HIGHEST OR HIGH LOC³¹

| | |
|--|--|
| ▪ Senior Companion/Adult Companion Services | ▪ Assisted Living Services |
| ▪ Assistive Technology | ▪ Bereavement Counseling |
| ▪ Career Planning | ▪ Case Management |
| ▪ Chore Services | ▪ Community-Based Supported Living Arrangements (CSLA) |
| ▪ Community Transition Services | ▪ Consultative Clinical and Therapeutic Services |
| ▪ Day Treatment and Supports | ▪ Homemaker Services |
| ▪ Home-Delivered Meals | ▪ Home Stabilization |
| ▪ Individual Directed Goods and Services | ▪ Integrated Supported Employment |
| ▪ Medication Management/Administration | ▪ Nonmedical Transportation |
| ▪ Peer Supports | ▪ Personal Care |
| ▪ Personal Emergency Response System (PERS) | ▪ Prevocational Services |
| ▪ Private Duty Nursing | ▪ Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services |
| ▪ Respite | ▪ Skilled Nursing |
| ▪ Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies | ▪ Supports for Consumer Direction (Supports Facilitation) |
| ▪ Training and Counseling Services for Unpaid Caregivers | ▪ Environmental Modifications (Home Accessibility Adaptations) |
| ▪ Minor Environmental Modifications | |

FIGURE 6: SERVICES FOR THOSE WITH PREVENTIVE LOC³²

| | |
|--|---|
| ▪ Assistive Technology | ▪ Chore Services |
| ▪ Community Transition Services | ▪ Homemaker |
| ▪ Home-Delivered Meals | ▪ Nonmedical Transportation |
| ▪ Medication Management/Administration | ▪ Peer Supports |
| ▪ Personal Care | ▪ Personal Emergency Response System (PERS) |
| ▪ Physical Therapy Evaluation and Services | ▪ Respite Services |
| ▪ Skilled Nursing | ▪ Residential Habilitation and Supports |
| ▪ Integrated Day Habilitation and Supports | |

FIGURE 7: HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED THERAPEUTIC SERVICES³³

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| ▪ Home-Based Treatment | ▪ Life Skill Building Services |
| ▪ Case Management | ▪ Treatment Coordination |
| ▪ Family Education and Support/Health Promotion | ▪ Coordinated Specialty Care |
| ▪ Healthy Young Adults Supports | ▪ Seven Challenges |

Assessment for LOC

Access to an institutional level of care and home and community-based services is based upon assessments that are completed through the Assessment and Coordination Organization (ACO) process.³⁴ This process is defined by the EOHHHS entering into interagency agreements with relevant agencies to ensure that each has accurate information to

³⁰ Ibid.
³¹ Ibid.
³² Ibid.
³³ Ibid.
³⁴ Ibid.

share with individuals who may be eligible for and seeking HCBS or nursing facility services.³⁵ One goal for this process, is to assure that individuals are provided with accurate information and appropriate referrals for assessment.³⁶ Individuals who require assessment for HCBS services are referred to EOHHS for assessment.³⁷

There are several different criteria that are part of the assessment to determine an individual is eligible for HCBS services and at what level of service. Some of these criteria include:³⁸

- **Activities of daily living (ADLs):** Activities of daily living refer to the ability of an individual to do certain activities themselves, including “bathing, dressing, toileting, transferring, continence, and feeding.”³⁹
- **Decision-making skills:** Moderate impairment combined with one of the following: wandering, resisting care, verbally aggressive behavior, physically aggressive behavior, or behavioral symptoms requiring extensive supervision.
- **Medical conditions or required treatments:** Stage 3 or 4 skin ulcers, IV medications, end-stage disease, second-degree or third-degree burns, ventilator or respirator, nasogastric tube feeding, parenteral feedings, suctioning, gait evaluation, and training.

A full listing of the assessment criteria for each category of service can be found in the Rhode Island 1115 demonstration waiver special terms and conditions.⁴⁰

Pending changes to HCBS

In December 2022, Rhode Island EOHHS submitted an 1115 waiver renewal application to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that makes several changes to HCBS, including a new process for assessment of level of care and changes to services.⁴¹ If approved, these changes would be effective in January 2024.

Assessment for CORE services: The process for determining level of care (LOC) for home and community-based services will transition to the use of the InterRai 10 assessment tool. The waiver application documents the new process as follows,

“To incorporate the prevailing standards of care and practice in the community and align with assessment instruments that have been validated on a nationwide basis, EOHHS proposes to use the ‘InterRai 10’ tool to determine level of care. If a person is determined through InterRai 10 to meet the ‘Highest’ level of care, and the person chooses an institutional setting for their care, the State will continue to use the MDS to determine the member’s RUG score in that setting. If the person meets the ‘High’ level of care or meets the ‘Highest’ level of care and chooses a home or community setting, the results from the InterRai 10 assessment will serve as the ‘functional assessment’ needed to identify the specific services a person can receive through HCBS.”⁴²

LOC changes will also incorporate a new abbreviated assessment for the preventive category of HCBS services.⁴³

Service changes: The waiver renewal will include the addition of remote supports and surveillance monitoring to CORE services (Figure 5 above). It will also amend the current service list to clarify those services that were never given approval by the state legislature and were therefore not available, despite being listed as a covered service in the previous waiver. This includes chore service, community transition, home-delivered meals, medication management, nonmedical transport, and peer supports. In addition, community-based supported living arrangements will be replaced with adult foster care.⁴⁴

³⁵ Ibid., Attachment C (p 134).

³⁶ Ibid., Attachment C (p 135).

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Ibid., Attachment C (p 139).

³⁹ McCabe, Donna. Katz Index of Independence in Activities of Daily Living (ADL). Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing. Retrieved May 23, 2023, from <https://hign.org/consultgeri/try-this-series/katz-index-independence-activities-daily-living-adl>.

⁴⁰ CMS (July 28, 2020), op cit.

⁴¹ Rhode Island Governor Daniel J. McKee (December 14, 2022). Rhode Island Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver Application. Retrieved May 23, 2023, from <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/section-1115-demonstrations/downloads/ri-comprehensive-demonstration-extension-pa.pdf>.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

RITE SMILES

Rlte Smiles provides dental coverage for children on Medicaid up to the age of 21.⁴⁵ Rlte Smiles is a managed care program administered through UnitedHealthcare Dental.

Eligibility

- Children eligible for, and enrolled in, Medicaid benefits up to their 21st birthday

Available Services⁴⁶

- Preventive services:** Routine dental exams, cleanings, fluoride varnish, and sealants.
- Diagnostic services:** Radiographs.
- Restorative services:** Fillings, crowns, and dentures.
- Other:** Space maintainers, oral surgery, and orthodontics for limited medically necessary conditions

Application Process

Applications may be completed online, by phone, or by paper application. The paper application is available on the DHS website at: <https://dhs.ri.gov/apply-now>. The online application is on the customer portal at HealthSource RI at: <https://healthyrhode.ri.gov/HIXWebI3/DisplayHomePage>.

RITE SHARE

Rlte Share is a premium assistance program for Medicaid/CHIP-eligible individuals who have access to employer-sponsored insurance (ESI). The state will pay all or part of the premium for ESI and offer wraparound services.⁴⁷ The ESI plan must meet requirements for coverage, affordability, and cost-effectiveness for the state.⁴⁸

Adults who have access to approved ESI must enroll in ESI to gain Medicaid coverage. Age 19 and below do not require their parent or guardian to enroll in ESI.⁴⁹

Eligibility

- Parents with children under age 18 and income up to 133% FPL
- Pregnant women with income up to 253% FPL
- Children up to age 19 with income up to 261% FPL
- Optional for those through the age of 64

In addition, those with family income greater than 150% FPL must pay a monthly premium to “buy-in” to the program. Figure 8 outlines the amount that must be paid by the member each month, based on their FPL, in order to maintain program eligibility.

FIGURE 8: BUY-IN AMOUNTS BY FPL

| MONTHLY FAMILY INCOME ⁵⁰ | MONTHLY BUY-IN AMOUNT |
|---|-----------------------|
| OVER 150% AND NOT GREATER THAN 185% FPL | \$61.00 |
| OVER 185% AND NOT GREATER THAN 200% FPL | \$77.00 |
| OVER 200% AND NOT GREATER THAN 250% FPL | \$92.00 |

⁴⁵ EOHHS. Dental Services For Children And Young Adults. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://eohhs.ri.gov/Consumer/DentalServices/ChildrenYoungAdults.aspx>.

⁴⁶ Rhode Island Medicaid (June 2019). Covered Dental Benefits for Children Under Age 21. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from https://eohhs.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur226/files/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/RlteSmiles/26_Rhode_Island_Medicaid_Covered_Dental_Benefits_for_Children_Under_Age_21.pdf.

⁴⁷ EOHHS. Rlte Share. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://eohhs.ri.gov/Consumer/FamilieswithChildren/RlteShare.aspx>.

⁴⁸ Rhode Island Department of State. Rlte Share Premium Assistance Program. 210-RICR-30-05-3. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://rules.sos.ri.gov/regulations/part/210-30-05-3>.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

Available Services

Individuals will receive comprehensive healthcare coverage through their employer plans. Any services that are covered by Medicaid that are not covered by the health plan can be covered by Medicaid as a wraparound service.⁵¹

Application Process

Applications may be completed online, by phone, or by paper application. The paper application is available on the DHS website at: <https://dhs.ri.gov/apply-now>. The online application is on the customer portal at HealthSource RI at: <https://healthyrhode.ri.gov/HIXWebI3/DisplayHomePage>.

CONNECT CARE CHOICE

Connect Care Choice is a primary care case management program for people who receive their Medicaid coverage through the state plan. It is designed for those who have special healthcare needs. Comprehensive medical coverage continues to be through the Medicaid state plan and these case management services are an additional benefit.⁵²

Eligibility

- 21 years or older
- Are not in an institution
- Do not have Medicare or other insurance

Available Services

Case management services to help an individual manage their health conditions.

Application Process

Applications may be completed online, by phone, or by paper application. The paper application is available on the DHS website at: <https://dhs.ri.gov/apply-now>. The online application is on the customer portal at HealthSource RI at: <https://healthyrhode.ri.gov/HIXWebI3/DisplayHomePage>.

PROGRAM FOR ALL-INCLUSIVE CARE FOR THE ELDERLY (PACE)

The Program for All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) is a Medicaid long-term services and supports option that offers comprehensive healthcare service and supports to older adults. In this program model, an individual works with one provider, an adult day health center, to arrange all of their care.⁵³ This program is available in four areas of the state: Providence, Woonsocket, Westerly, and Newport.⁵⁴

Eligibility

- Individuals eligible for Medicaid
- Age 55 and above
- Live in a covered service area
- Able to live safely in the community.

Available Services

PACE offers the same comprehensive healthcare services that are available under the Medicaid program along with additional care coordination. Additional program information is available at: <https://pace-ri.org/>.

Application Process

Applications may be completed online, by phone, or by paper application. The paper application is available on the DHS website at: <https://dhs.ri.gov/apply-now>. The online application is on the customer portal at HealthSource RI at: <https://healthyrhode.ri.gov/HIXWebI3/DisplayHomePage>.

MEDICARE PREMIUM PAYMENT PROGRAM

The Medicare Premium Payment Program provides a financial subsidy to eligible individuals to help them pay for certain Medicare premiums and/or copayments.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Rhode Island Department of Human Services (July 2008). Connect Care Choice. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from http://www.ohhs.ri.gov/documents/documents12/consumer_fact_sheet_11_2010.pdf.

⁵³ PACE Rhode Island. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://pace-ri.org/>.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

Eligibility

- Individuals who are eligible for Medicare and age 65 or older or an adult with a disability.

Available Services

This program does not offer services; it is a cost subsidy program. The different types of payment benefits available for different groups under the program are described in Figure 9.

FIGURE 9: CATEGORIES OF MEDICARE PREMIUM PAYMENT⁵⁵

| Program Category | FPL | Resource Limits | Benefit |
|--|------------------|---|---|
| Qualified Medicare Beneficiary (QMB): | 100% FPL or less | \$9,090 individual or \$13,630 married couple | Medicaid will pay Medicare Part A premiums, Part B premiums, deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments for covered services. |
| Specified Low-income Medicare Beneficiary (SLMB) Program | 100%-120% FPL | \$9,090 individual or \$13,630 married couple | Medicaid will pay for Medicare Part B premiums. |
| Qualified Individual (QI) | 120%-135% FPL | \$9,090 individual or \$13,630 married couple | Medicaid will pay the Medicare Part B premium. Funds are limited and distributed on a first-come first-served basis. |

Application Process

Applications may be completed online, by phone, or by paper application. The paper application is available on the DHS website at: <https://dhs.ri.gov/apply-now>. The online application is on the customer portal at HealthSource RI at: <https://healthyrhode.ri.gov/HIXWebI3/DisplayHomePage>.

RHODE ISLAND EARLY INTERVENTION

The Rhode Island Early Intervention program provides early diagnosis and treatment for a child who shows a delay in speech, physical ability, or social skills. This program serves about 2,000 children per year in Rhode Island and is required by Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Eligibility

- Children up to age 3
- No financial eligibility criteria

Available Services

Comprehensive developmental evaluation.

Application Process

To apply for services, individuals may contact a provider from the list of providers found on the EOHHS website at: <https://eohhs.ri.gov/Consumer/FamilieswithChildren/EarlyIntervention.aspx>.

🌀 CEDAR FAMILY CENTER SERVICES

This program consists of intensive care management and coordination for children and youth with special healthcare needs and their families.⁵⁶ This includes children with serious mental illness (SMI) or serious emotional disturbance (SED). The program is free for children enrolled in Rhode Island Medicaid.

⁵⁵ EOHHS. Medicare Premium Payment Program. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://eohhs.ri.gov/Consumer/ProgramsServices/MedicarePremiumPaymentProgram.aspx>.

⁵⁶ EOHHS. Cedar Family Center Services. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://eohhs.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur226/files/2021-04/Cedar%20Fact%20Sheet%208.19.pdf>.

Eligibility

- Rhode Island resident
- Up to age 21
- With two or more chronic health conditions or one chronic condition and at risk for two
- Children with SMI or SED are eligible for this program.

Available Services

Assessment, education, and referral.

Application Process

To apply for services, individuals may contact a nearby Cedar family center. For more information, see: <https://eohhs.ri.gov/providers-partners/provider-directories/cedarr-services>.

Location and phone numbers for the two centers:

| Cedar Family Centers | |
|--|---|
| <p>RI Parent Information Network Cedar 1210 Pontiac Ave. Cranston, Rhode Island 02920 (401) 270-0101</p> | <p>Three Cedar Family Center 335 R Prairie Ave., Suite 1A Providence, RI 02905 (401) 444-7703</p> |

Department of Human Services

The Rhode Island Department of Human Services (DHS) administers social and human services programs that span several populations including children, individuals with disabilities, aging individuals, and veterans. Programs overseen by DHS provide benefits, supports, and services to over 300,000 Rhode Islanders. DHS is established with the following mission: “As an agency committed to access and achievement, the vision for the Rhode Island Department of Human Services (DHS) is that all Rhode Islanders have the opportunity to thrive at home, work and in the community.”⁵⁷ The department website also states:

“More specifically, DHS strives to guarantee:

- Families are strong, productive, healthy, and independent.
- Adults are healthy and reach their maximum potential.
- Children are safe, healthy, ready to learn and reach their full potential.
- Child Care providers deliver high quality education services.
- Older Adults and Seniors and individuals with disabilities receive all necessary services to enhance their quality of life.
- Veterans are cared for and honored.”⁵⁸

Program eligibility information for certain DHS programs is described below. In the sections below, we have provided additional breakouts to show the programs operated by the DHS Office of Rehabilitative Services, the DHS Office of Healthy Aging, and the DHS Office of Veterans Services.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

SNAP is the federal food assistance program (formerly called food stamps) that provides financial assistance recipients can use to buy food. The amount of money provided depends on the number and age of people who make up the household.

⁵⁷ DHS. About Us. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://dhs.ri.gov/about-us>.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

Eligibility

- 185% FPL for households without an older adult (60+)
- 200% FPL for households with an older adult (60+)
- 200% FPL for households with an individual with a disability

Available Services

This program does not offer services; it is a cost subsidy program. Subsidies are available to help individuals purchase eligible food products, according to the limits outlined in Figure 10.

FIGURE 10: MAXIMUM SNAP BENEFIT BASED ON HOUSEHOLD SIZE

| Household Size | Maximum Benefit Amount* |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | \$281 |
| 2 | \$516 |
| 3 | \$740 |
| 4 | \$939 |
| 5 | \$1,116 |

* These are maximum benefit amounts. A household's actual benefit will be determined based upon their income and other eligibility factors.

Application Process

Applications may be completed online, by phone, or by paper application. The paper application is available on the DHS website at: <https://dhs.ri.gov/apply-now>. The online application is on the customer portal at HealthSource RI at: <https://healthyrhode.ri.gov/HIXWebI3/DisplayHomePage>.

CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CCAP)

CCAP provides subsidies to low-income working families to offset the cost of childcare. Child care centers and/or school age programs must attain the CCAP provider certification and comply with the terms and conditions set forth in the CCAP provider agreement to be able to participate in the program and receive payments from DHS.

Eligibility

- Families with income at or below 200% FPL who meet an additional requirement from the following list:
 - Enrolled in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
 - Low-income families who work a minimum of 20 hours per week or are participating in job training, apprenticeships, internships, work experience, or work immersion sponsored by the Governor's Workforce Board.
 - Low-income family with guardian enrolled in a degree program at a Rhode Island public institution of higher education: the Community College of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, or the University of Rhode Island.
 - Families participating in the Rhode Island Works program
 - Parenting teens participating in DHS Youth Success program

Available Services

This program does not offer services; it is a cost subsidy program. Subsidies are available to help an individual pay for childcare up to a child's 13th birthday or up to age 18 for children with special needs. Subsidies are on a sliding scale depending on family size and income.

Application Process

Applications may be completed online, by phone, or by paper application. The paper application is available on the DHS website at: <https://dhs.ri.gov/apply-now>. The online application is on the customer portal at HealthSource RI at: <https://healthyrhode.ri.gov/HIXWebI3/DisplayHomePage>.

HEAD START

Head Start programs offer services to children from birth to age 5 to support early learning and development, health, and family well-being.⁵⁹ Head Start includes Early Head Start services to families with children from birth to age 3, while Head Start preschool serves families with children ages 3 to 5.⁶⁰ Many Head Start providers offer both Early Head Start and Head Start preschool.

Eligibility

- Family at or below 100% FPL
- Family receives Rhode Island Works, SNAP, or SSI assistance
- Child In foster care
- Family experiencing homelessness

Available Services

- Child development services in center bases, home-based, or family childcare settings.
- Support for early learning and development
- Support for health and wellness
- Support for family well-being

Application Process

To apply for services, individuals may contact the Head Start provider in their local community. A list of Head Start programs can be found on the DHS website at: <https://dhs.ri.gov/programs-and-services/child-care/head-start/head-start-eligibility-how-apply>.

REFUGEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Refugee Assistance Program helps refugees and their families obtain employment, economic self-sufficiency, and social integration after they arrive in Rhode Island.

Eligibility

Set forth in 218-RICR-20-00-6.⁶¹

- Paroled as a refugee or asylee under section 212(d)(5) of the Refugee Act (8 U.S.C. § 1101 *et seq.*)
- Admitted as a refugee under section 207 of the Refugee Act (8 U.S.C. § 1101 *et seq.*)
- Granted asylum under section 208 of the Refugee Act (8 U.S.C. § 1101 *et seq.*)
- Cuban and Haitian entrants, in accordance with requirements in 45 C.F.R part 401
- Certain Amerasians from Vietnam who are admitted to the United States as immigrants pursuant to section 584 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Acts, 1989, 8 U.S.C § 1101
- Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) holders for Iraq and Afghanistan
- Admitted for permanent residence, provided the individual previously held one of the statuses identified above

Available Services

Confirmed refugees are immediately eligible for SNAP, Medicaid, CCAP, Rhode Island Works, and Refugee Cash Assistance.⁶²

⁵⁹ EOHHS. Head Start Eligibility & How to Apply. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://dhs.ri.gov/programs-and-services/child-care/head-start/head-start-eligibility-how-apply>.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ Rhode Island Department of State. Refugee Assistance Program: 218-RICR-20-00-6. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from https://rules.sos.ri.gov/Regulations/part/218-20-00-6?reg_id=12563#:~:text=6.4.1Eligibility%20for%20Categorical%20Programs%20A.%20When%20a%20refugee,Works%20%28RIW%29%2C%20General%20Public%20Assistance%20%28GPA%29%2C%20and%2Ffor%20Medicaid.

⁶² EOHHS. Refugee Assistance Program. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://dhs.ri.gov/programs-and-services/refugee-assistance-program>.

Application Process

Applications may be completed online, by phone, or by paper application. The paper application is available on the DHS website at: <https://dhs.ri.gov/apply-now>. The online application is on the customer portal at HealthSource RI at: <https://healthyrhode.ri.gov/HIXWeb13/DisplayHomePage>.

SSI ENHANCED ASSISTED LIVING PROGRAM

The Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Enhanced Assisted Living Program provides an enhancement to SSI payments to cover the cost of room and board for individuals determined to be in need of services provided by an assisted living facility.

Eligibility

- Rhode Island residents
- 65 years or older with a disability
- Income less than \$1,212 per month
- Resources/assets less than \$2,000
- Must apply for or be a recipient of SSI
- Can safely live in the community

Available Services

This program does not offer services; it is a cost subsidy program. Eligible individuals may receive an enhancement to their SSI payments to cover the cost of room and board.

Application Process

To apply for services, individuals may contact The Point, a free resource sponsored by the Office of Healthy Aging and United Way. The Point is available 24 hours a day at (401) 462-4444 or 211 or (401) 462-4445 TTY. Individuals can also apply in person by visiting their local Office of Healthy Aging Point office. A list of these office locations can be found at: <https://oha.ri.gov/point>.

KATIE BECKETT

The Katie Beckett program is a Medicaid eligibility category for children under age 19 who have long-term disabilities or complex medical needs and who meet income requirements. Children in the Katie Beckett program are able to receive care at home instead of in an institution.

Eligibility

A child must be under age 19, a Rhode Island resident, and:

- Have income less than 300% of the SSI federal benefit rate (about 319% FPL) and resources totaling less than \$4,000
- Qualify under the U.S. SSA definition of disability
- Live at home
- Require a level of care at home that is typically provided in a hospital, nursing facility, or an Intermediate Care Facility for persons with intellectual disability (ICF-MR)

The child must require an institutional level of care and meet the SSI method for qualifying for community Medicaid. However, parental assets are not considered to be available to the child. Only the child's income and resources are counted. Resources must be less than \$4,000 and cost must be less than the cost of the care in the institution as there is a cost analysis required.⁶³

Available Services

Individuals eligible through this program are enrolled in Medicaid and are eligible for all services covered by that program.

⁶³ Rhode Island Department of State. Katie Beckett Program (210-RICR-50-10-03. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://rules.sos.ri.gov/regulations/part/210-50-10-3>.

Application Process

Applications may be completed online, by phone, or by paper application. The paper application is available on the DHS website at: <https://dhs.ri.gov/apply-now>. The online application is on the customer portal at HealthSource RI at: <https://healthyrhode.ri.gov/HIXWebI3/DisplayHomePage>.

A disability determination using the Social Security Administration criteria and level of care (LOC) determination must be made within 90 days.

SHERLOCK PLAN

The Sherlock Plan, also known as Medicaid for Working People with Disabilities, is a Medicaid eligibility category for adults with disabilities who are actively employed.

Eligibility

- Disabled adults aged 18 and up
- Have paid employment
- Income at or below 250% FPL
- Assets no greater than \$10,000 for an individual or \$20,000 for a couple

Additionally, individuals must pay a monthly premium to maintain eligibility.

Available Services

Individuals in the Sherlock Plan have access to the full scope of Medicaid benefits.

Application Process

Applications may be completed online, by phone, or by paper application. The paper application is available on the DHS website at: <https://dhs.ri.gov/apply-now>. The online application is on the customer portal at HealthSource RI at: <https://healthyrhode.ri.gov/HIXWebI3/DisplayHomePage>.

DHS Office of Rehabilitative Services

Within DHS, the Office of Rehabilitative Services (ORS) is established with the following mission: to empower individuals with disabilities to choose, prepare for, obtain, advance in, and maintain employment, economic self-sufficiency, independence, and integration into society. The ORS offers the programs detailed below.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

The Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program assists individuals with disabilities, including individuals who are legally blind, in choosing, preparing for, obtaining, and maintaining employment. VR counselors are employees of the ORS and are assigned to schools and training programs within a given region.

Eligibility

Individuals must meet the following criteria:

- Have a physical, intellectual, or emotional impairment that is a substantial barrier to employment
- Require vocational rehabilitation services to prepare for, secure, retain, or regain employment
- Are able to benefit from vocational rehabilitation services in terms of an employment outcome⁶⁴

Available Services

Each person enrolled receives an individualized plan for employment that will inform the services received. Services may include: vocational counseling and guidance, diagnostic services, training, vocational evaluation, restoration services, placement assistance, assistive technology, and support services.⁶⁵

⁶⁴ ORS. Vocational Rehabilitation Program. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://ors.ri.gov/programs/vocational-rehabilitation-program>.

⁶⁵ ORS. Services That May Be Provided. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://ors.ri.gov/programs/vocational-rehabilitation-program/services-and-costs>.

Application Process

Applicants must complete a paper application and submit it to the Office of Rehabilitation Services. Applications are available on the VR website at <https://ors.ri.gov/programs/vocational-rehabilitation-program/apply>.

DISABILITY DETERMINATION SERVICES

Disability Determination Services (DDS) helps individuals who have applied for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) by determining the medical eligibility of Rhode Island residents who are applying to these federally administered benefit programs.²⁵ DDS is a unit within ORS. The Medicaid Review Team completes the medical review to determine whether an individual has a qualifying disability. Then financial criteria, as outlined in the Medicaid eligibility and application processes section above, are applied to determine the appropriate eligibility category for the individual. The process and criteria utilized by DDS and the Medicaid Review Team are established at the federal level by the Social Security Administration.

Eligibility

Individuals must meet the following criteria:

For SSI:⁶⁶

- Aged 65 or older
- Blind or disabled
- U.S. citizen or national
- Limited income
- Limited resources
- Not a resident in a public institution

For SSDI:⁶⁷

- Worked in jobs covered by Social Security
- A medical condition that meets the Social Security definition of disability

For Medicaid:

- A medical condition that meets the Social Security definition of disability
- Meets financial criteria listed in Figure 2 above ("Financial Eligibility for Full Medicaid")

Available Services

- Federal Social Security Disability Insurance
- Federal Supplemental Security Income
- Eligibility for Rhode Island Medicaid benefits

Application Process

Applications may be completed online, by phone, or by paper application. The paper application is available on the DHS website at: <https://dhs.ri.gov/apply-now>. The online application is on the customer portal at HealthSource RI at: <https://healthyrhode.ri.gov/HIXWebI3/DisplayHomePage>.

BUSINESS ENTERPRISES PROGRAM

The Business Enterprises Program (BEP) "offers training and employment for qualified persons who are legally blind. Licensed blind vendors operate vending facilities at 13 locations found throughout the state."⁶⁸

⁶⁶ SSA (2023). Understanding Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Eligibility Requirements—2023 Edition. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-eligibility-ussi.htm>.

⁶⁷ SSA. Disability Benefits: How You Qualify. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/qualify.html>.

⁶⁸ ORS. Business Enterprises Program. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://ors.ri.gov/programs/services-blind-and-visually-impaired/business-enterprises-program#:~:text=The%20Business%20Enterprises%20Program%20%5BBEP%5D%20of%20ORS%2Fservices%20for, facilities%20at%2013%20locations%20found%20throughout%20the%20state.>

Eligibility

Individuals must meet the following criteria:

- Be legally blind
- U.S citizen
- Be a VR client ready for training
- 18 years or older
- Have capacity or potential to travel independently
- Have basic math skills
- Have ability to meet and deal with the public
- Have pride in their personal appearance⁶⁹

Available Services

Training to work at or operate a vending facility that is part of the licensed blind vendor program.

Application Process

Applicants must complete a paper application and submit it to the Office of Rehabilitation Services. Applications are available on the VR website at <https://ors.ri.gov/programs/vocational-rehabilitation-program/apply>.

INDEPENDENT LIVING AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Independent Living and Social Services are meant to enable Rhode Islanders with visual impairments to maintain independence and self-sufficiency in the community. Services are split into three service areas, children and youth, adults, and older adults, which are coordinated by social workers and vary based on age.

Eligibility

- **Children and youth:** Age 3 through 14.
- **Adults:** Adults that are not seeking to gain employment or retain employment and would like to remain independent in their home or the community.
- **Older adults:** Adults who want to maximize their independence living in any situation in a home, assisted living, or a nursing facility

Available Services

- **Children and youth:** Counseling for children and their parents or guardians, advocacy, individualized education plan (IEP) supports, glasses or other adaptive equipment (for those with economic need), and information and referral to community resources and supports.
- **Adults:** Assessment, counseling, and guidance; training in daily living skills and mobility; eyeglasses and other adaptive equipment; certification of legal blindness; and information and referral to community resources and supports.⁷⁰
- **Older adults:** Case management for those age 55 and older, rehabilitation services in activities of daily living, service coordination, and referral for additional services.

Application Process

To apply for services, individuals may contact the program intake line at 401-462-7908 or email state staff at laurie.diorio@dsh.ri.gov.

RHODE ISLAND WORKS

Rhode Island Works (RI Works) is a financial and employment assistance program for low-income families with dependent children. The program provides services tailored to the needs of the family in an effort to improve their

⁶⁹ ORS (August 24, 2010). Business Enterprises Program Fact Sheet. Rhode Island Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://ors.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur441/files/2021-06/BEP%20fact%20sheet.pdf>.

⁷⁰ ORS. Adult Social Service/Independent Living Program. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://ors.ri.gov/programs/services-blind-and-visually-impaired/independent-living-and-social-services/adult-social>.

employment situation. Services include job readiness, employment or vocational training, childcare, transportation, and educational services.

Eligibility

Individuals must meet the following criteria:

- Have a dependent child or be pregnant
- Meet income limits
- Meet asset limits (no more than \$5,000 excluding home and vehicle)
- Live in Rhode Island and be a citizen or eligible noncitizen

Available Services

This program offers services as well as cost subsidies. Services included cash assistance, job readiness, employment or vocational training, childcare, transportation, and educational services.

Cash assistance based on family size and housing status is shown in Figure 11.

FIGURE 11: CASH ASSISTANCE BY FAMILY SIZE

| Household size | If you DO NOT live in public or subsidized housing | If you live in public or subsidized housing |
|----------------|--|---|
| 1 | \$425 | \$360 |
| 2 | \$584 | \$519 |
| 3 | \$721 | \$656 |
| 4 | \$825 | \$760 |

Note: These rates were effective July 1, 2021 ⁷¹

Application Process

Applications may be completed online, by phone, or by paper application. The paper application is available on the DHS website at: <https://dhs.ri.gov/apply-now>. The online application is on the customer portal at HealthSource RI at: <https://healthyrhode.ri.gov/HIXWebI3/DisplayHomePage>.

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACCESS PARTNERSHIP

The Assistive Technology Access Partnership (ATAP) is a partnership between ORS and several organizations with the goal of improving access to and acquisition of assistive technology for individuals with disabilities.²⁶ ATAP serves as the lead agency of this collaborative, responsible for coordinating activities and administering grant funds to partner organizations.²⁷

Eligibility

Individuals who are enrolled in Medicaid qualify for this program.

Available Services⁷²

- Device demonstration
- Device loan
- Device reuse
- Training, public awareness, collaboration, information, and referral

⁷¹ DHS (August 13, 2021). Rhode Island Works Benefit Increase Is Almost Here! Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://dhs.ri.gov/press-releases/ri-works-benefit-increase-almost-here>.

⁷² ORS. About ATAP. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://ors.ri.gov/programs/assistive-technology-access-partnership-atap>.

Application Process

To apply for services, individuals may contact an ATAP partner listed on the ORS website at <https://ors.ri.gov/programs/assistive-technology-access-partnership-atap/atap-partners>.⁷³

ADAPTIVE TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT LOAN PROGRAM

The Adaptive Telephone Equipment Loan (ATEL) program, part of ATAP, provides landline telephones and wireless devices on loan to Rhode Islanders who are deaf, hard of hearing, have a speech disability, or have a neuromuscular condition that hinders their ability to use a standard telephone. ATEL also provides training and demonstrations for smartphones and tablets through its Hearing and Speech Lab.⁷⁴

Eligibility

Individuals must meet the following criteria:

- Are deaf, hard of hearing, have a speech disability, or have a neuromuscular condition.
- Meet income guidelines *or* are enrolled in or receive at least one of the following: SNAP support, Medicaid, SSI, heating assistance, RItE Care, Family Independence Program, general public assistance, or telephone lifeline service.

Income guidelines are shown in Figure 12.

FIGURE 12: INCOME GUIDELINES FOR ATEL PROGRAM

| Family Size | Up to 250% FPL per Month |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | \$2,683 |
| 2 | \$3,629 |
| 3 | \$4,575 |

Available Services⁷⁵

- Landline or home telephones, including CapTel relay telephones
- Wireless devices
- Smartphone and tablet training and demonstrations

Application Process

Applications may be completed online at the ORS website at <https://ors.ri.gov/programs/adaptive-telephone-equipment-loan-program-atel/application>.

DHS Office of Healthy Aging

The DHS Office of Healthy Aging (OHA) empowers older Rhode Islanders (age 55+) and adults living with disabilities to age strong, connects older adults to information and resources in the community, and advocates for laws, policies, and investments that protect their rights and agency. The OHA offers the following programs.

⁷³ ORS. ATAP Partners. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://ors.ri.gov/programs/assistive-technology-access-partnership-atap/atap-partners>.

⁷⁴ ORS. ATEL Applications. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://ors.ri.gov/programs/adaptive-telephone-equipment-loan-program-atel/application>.

⁷⁵ ORS. ATEL Hearing and Speech Lab & Loaner Library. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://ors.ri.gov/programs/adaptive-telephone-equipment-loan-program-atel/atel-hearing-speech-lab-loaner-library>.

OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

Rhode Island's Long-Term Care Ombudsman advocates on behalf of residents in care facilities, listening to their concerns and taking action to protect their rights.⁷⁶

Eligibility

There are no eligibility criteria. Anyone who has a concern about an individual living in a nursing facility or assisted living facility or those receiving home care or hospice services may contact the Ombudsman.

Available Services

- Education on resident's rights and good care practices
- Technical support for development of resident and family councils
- Advocacy for changes to improve resident's quality of life and care
- Information to the public regarding long-term care (LTC) facilities and services, residents' rights, and legislative and policy issues
- Representation of residents' interests before governmental agencies
- Legal, administrative, and other remedies to protect residents

Application Process

A formal application is not required for this program. For questions, consultation or to report suspected abuse call 401-785-3340 or 1-888-351-0808.

ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Adult Protective Services allows reports to be made about suspected abuse, neglect, and/or financial exploitation by a caregiver or self-neglect of an older person (60+).⁷⁷

Eligibility

Eligibility criteria do not apply. Any Rhode Island resident who has a concern about an older adult should report that concern by calling or submitting an online form.

Available Services

The Elder Rights and Safety (ERS) unit investigates complaints of abuse and self-neglect. ERS also works collaboratively with law enforcement agencies to address any suspected cases of financial exploitation.⁷⁸

Application Process

None. To report, individuals may contact 401-462-0555 or use the online form at <https://hssriprod.wellsky.com/assessments/?WebIntake=63BBACF5-07E9-4F75-9182-017BDB0F3F9A>.

RHODE ISLAND PHARMACEUTICAL ASSISTANCE TO ELDERS PROGRAM (RIPAE)

The Rhode Island Pharmaceutical Assistance to Elders (RIPAE) program provides financial support to qualifying individuals to cover part of the cost of approved medications purchased under the deductible of a Part D plan. The amount of assistance depends on age and income.⁷⁹

Eligibility

Individuals must meet the following criteria:

- At least 55 years old
- Financial eligibility

⁷⁶ Rhode Island Office of Healthy Aging. Ombudsman Program. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://oha.ri.gov/what-we-do/protect/ombudsman-program>.

⁷⁷ Rhode Island Office of Healthy Aging. Adult Protective Services. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://oha.ri.gov/what-we-do/protect/elder-protective-services>.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ Rhode Island Office of Healthy Aging. Drug Cost Assistance. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://oha.ri.gov/what-we-do/access/health-insurance-coaching/drug-cost-assistance>.

- Enrolled in a Medicare Part D plan
- Rhode Island resident
- Not eligible for or enrolled in SSA Extra Help program

Available Service

The program will pay a portion of the cost of qualifying medications. Figure 13 outlines the amount of assistance available based on age and income.⁸⁰

FIGURE 13: MEMBER COST SHARING BASED ON INCOME AND AGE

| Age 65 and Older | Qualifying Levels | | State Share | Member Share |
|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Single Person | Married Couple | | |
| Level 1 | Up to \$32,996 | Up to \$41,249 | 60% | 40% |
| Level 2 | \$32,996 to \$ 41,424 | \$41,249 to \$51,798 | 30% | 70% |
| Level 3 | \$41,424 to \$72,628 | \$51,798 to \$82,848 | 15% | 85% |
| Level 4 (Ages 55-64) | Up to \$72,628 | Up to \$82,848 | 15% | 85% |

Application Process

To apply for services, individuals may apply using the form online at the OHA website at <https://oha.ri.gov/what-we-do/access/health-insurance-coaching/drug-cost-assistance>. Completed applications must be submitted to the Office of Healthy Aging.

DIGIAGE

DigiAGE is a partnership of government, industry, and community that links older adults to technology and the virtual opportunities that exist today through assistance with accessing devices, establishing internet connection, and training.⁸¹

Eligibility

All older adults living in Rhode Island are eligible to access the DigiAGE program. Those who are covered by other social services programs in the state or with incomes below 250% FPL may also be eligible for free devices or reduced internet cost.⁸²

Available Services

- **Device access:** Multiple programs to help older adults access phone equipment or electronic devices.
- **Internet connectivity:** Multiple programs to assist older adults with gaining access to the internet.
- **Training programs:** Multiple programs to assist older adults in learning how to use the internet and their electronic devices.

Application Process

To apply for services, individuals may locate a service provider and learn about program offerings on the Office of Healthy Aging website at: <https://oha.ri.gov/digiAGE>.

DHS Office of Veterans Services

Within DHS, the Office of Veterans Services (OVS) operates under the following mission statement.

“Effective immediately, the Rhode Island Office of Veterans Services maintains the following:

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ Rhode Island Office of Healthy Aging. DigiAGE: Bridging the Digital Divide for Older Rhode Islanders. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://oha.ri.gov/digiAGE>.

⁸² Ibid.

- Through knowledge of individual and social factors contributing to personal problems that affect the Veteran, active duty, guard and reserve, and/or their families;
- Remains current on issues and trends impacting the work and mission of the agency;
- Forms strong and successful partnerships locally, regionally, and nationwide to address Veterans' issues in Rhode Island.⁸³

These focuses are imperative to reduce homelessness among veterans, veterans living in poverty, and veteran unemployment rates, to ensure veterans receive proper medical care and continued quality service at the Rhode Island Veterans Home and Rhode Island Veterans Memorial Cemetery, and to ensure every veteran has an opportunity to make it in Rhode Island. The OVS offers the following programs:

THE VETERANS CRISIS LINE

The Veterans Crisis Line is a nationwide toll-free crisis line to assist service members and loved ones in times of stress or crisis. This program is operated as part of the national 988 program.⁸⁴

Eligibility

Any veteran, service member, national guard, or reserve member, or friends and loved ones who support them.

Available Service

A responder will talk with individuals and can also connect people to additional resources. The phones are operated 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Application Process

Not applicable. Anyone may access the program.

VETERANS HOME

The Rhode Island Veterans Home is a state-run facility that provides nursing and residential care to war veterans living in Rhode Island.⁸⁵

Eligibility⁸⁶

Individuals must meet the following criteria:

- Veterans with an honorable discharge
- Those who had 90-day active service during wartime
- Individuals who are a Rhode Island resident for two consecutive years prior to date of application or joined the service from Rhode Island

Available Services/Cost Sharing⁸⁷

- Long-term care facility services
- X-ray, dental, and pharmacy services, physical therapy and occupational therapy, social work services, transportation to Providence Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center (PVAMC).
- Individual pays 80% of adjusted net income

Application Process

To apply for services, individuals may complete the online application found on the Office of Veterans Service website at: <https://vets.ri.gov/i-am-find-your-benefits/world-war-ii-korean-war-veteran/ri-veterans-home-community-living-center>.

⁸³ OVS. About Us. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://vets.ri.gov/>.

⁸⁴ Ibid.

⁸⁵ OVS. RI Veterans Home Community Living Center. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://vets.ri.gov/i-am-find-your-benefits/world-war-ii-korean-war-veteran/ri-veterans-home-community-living-center>.

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ Ibid.

Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals

The Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH) provides services to Rhode Island residents with mental illness, substance use disorders, or developmental disabilities. BHDDH also operates two acute care state hospitals that serve these individuals. BHDDH is established with the following mission:

“BHDDH guarantees high-quality, safe and accessible health care services for all individuals with differing intellectual/developmental abilities, mental health or substance use disorders, or who are in the care of facilities administered by BHDDH through an integrated healthcare landscape, in which all Rhode Islanders will thrive.”⁸⁸

Program eligibility information for BHDDH programs is described below.

MENTAL HEALTH BLOCK GRANT | SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT BLOCK GRANT

The combined Substance Abuse (SA), Mental Health (MH), and Substance Abuse Block Grant provides federal funding to the state that is used to provide substance abuse and mental health treatment throughout the state.⁸⁹ This program provides funding to programs and providers through the state. It is not a specific program that individuals can apply to directly, though the funding does go to a number of programs in which an individual may participate. Federal funding comes from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). In order to receive funding, BHDDH must submit an application that provides assurances that the state will comply with the terms of the grant funding and includes a proposed budget for how the funds will be utilized.⁹⁰ Rhode Island provides a username and password that anyone can use to log into the SAMHSA block grant website and access Rhode Island block grant applications and reports. The log-in information and link to the federal site can be found on the BHDDH website at: <https://bhddh.ri.gov/substance-useaddiction/block-grant-information>.

SAMHSA allows states to use block grant dollars in the way that best serves the states needs within the following criteria:

- “To fund priority treatment and support services for individuals who are uninsured or underinsured.
- For SABG funds, to fund primary prevention: universal, selective, and indicated prevention activities.
- To collect performance and outcome data for mental health and substance use, determine the effectiveness of promotion/SUD primary prevention, and treatment and recovery supports.”⁹¹

Rhode Island’s block grant application outlined how funding from the block grants would be utilized for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant. Some of the plans include:⁹²

- Investment in crisis response infrastructure
- Outreach to homeless individuals
- Naloxone distribution infrastructure
- Creation of new level of care (LOC) placement tool
- Expanding student assistance services
- Workforce development, including peer recovery specialists
- Developing a race/equity strategic plan

⁸⁸ BHDDH. Welcome. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://bhddh.ri.gov/>.

⁸⁹ SAMHSA. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Block Grants. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/block-grants#:~:text=Mandated%20by%20Congress%2C%20SAMHSA%27s%20block%20grants%20are%20noncompetitive,noncompetitive%20formula%20grant%20mandated%20by%20the%20U.S.%20Congress.>

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ SAMHSA. FFY 2022-2023 Block Grant Application. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/grants/fy22-23-block-grant-application.pdf>.

⁹² BHDDH (September 30, 2021). Rhode Island Uniform Application FY 2022/2023 Combined MHBG Application Behavioral Health Assessment and Plan. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://bhddh.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur411/files/2021-10/fy2022-2023-combined-mental-health-and-substance-abuse-block-grant-application-behavioral-health-assessment-and-plan.pdf>.

Some of the planned expenditures for the Mental Health Block Grant include:⁹³

- Development of crisis services
- Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) implementation
- Suicide prevention
- Workforce development, including peer recovery specialists

ELEANOR SLATER HOSPITAL

Eleanor Slater Hospital is a long-term acute care hospital providing services to Rhode Island residents with complex medical and psychiatric needs.⁹⁴ The hospital provides comprehensive mental health services; physical, occupational, recreational, speech, and respiratory therapies; ventilator care; and acute brain injury care. The hospital operates two locations: a Cranston campus and a Zambarano campus.

Eligibility

Individuals who meet the hospital level of care with an appropriate primary diagnosis and who are referred by a treating physician. State staff work with medical professionals to determine the most appropriate placement for an individual in need of this level of care and make all admission decisions.

Available Services

- Comprehensive mental health services
- Physical, occupational, recreational, speech, and respiratory therapies
- Ventilator care
- Acute brain injury care⁹⁵

Application Process

Referrals typically come from the individual's treating physician. Applications for referral are located on the BHDDH website at: <https://bhddh.ri.gov/eleanor-slater-hospital/description-services-and-application>.

RHODE ISLAND STATE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL

The Rhode Island State Psychiatric Hospital (RISPH) treats "psychiatric and court-ordered forensic patients who have serious mental illnesses, including those who are incompetent to stand trial, those who have been found not guilty by reason of insanity and deemed too dangerous for current release, and those who are serving prison sentences and require specialized treatment not available at the Adult Correctional Institutions."⁹⁶

Eligibility

Individuals who are referred to this setting through a court order.

Available Services

- Court-ordered psychiatric services

Application Process

No application process exists. Services are assigned through court order.

SHARED LIVING ARRANGEMENT (SLA)

Shared Living Arrangement (SLA) is a set of services to assist a person with a developmental disability to live with an individual or family in a home-like setting.

Eligibility

Certain individuals who are enrolled in Medicaid may qualify for this program. Shared Living Arrangement is part of the home and community-based services (HCBS) that are only available to Medicaid-eligible individuals who meet

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ BHDDH. About Eleanor Slater Hospital. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://bhddh.ri.gov/Eleanor-slater-hospital>.

⁹⁵ Ibid.

⁹⁶ BHDDH. Overview of RI State Psychiatric Hospital. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://bhddh.ri.gov/ri-state-psychiatric-hospital>.

the “High” or “Highest” level of care. See HCBS in the Medicaid Eligibility and Application Processes section of this report above for additional information.⁹⁷

Available Services

- “Staff provide help with daily activities such as meals, transportation and personal care while providing a positive social environment.”⁹⁸

Application Process

Applications may be completed online, by phone, or by paper application. The paper application is available on the DHS website at: <https://dhs.ri.gov/apply-now>. The online application is on the customer portal at HealthSource RI at: <https://healthyrhode.ri.gov/HIXWeb13/DisplayHomePage>.

RHODE ISLAND COMMUNITY LIVING AND SUPPORTS

Rhode Island Community Living and Supports (RICLAS) is a state-operated service provider with both day programming and residential services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Eligibility⁹⁹

Individuals must meet the following criteria:

- Eligible for Rhode Island Medicaid
- Meet the definition of developmentally disabled adult

Available Services¹⁰⁰

- Individual supports in special care facilities and group homes
- Individual supports in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) apartments with lease support

The following services are also provided to individuals in RICLAS based on assessed individual needs. These services are also provided when people, who reside at home or in a community setting, may need them on a temporary basis:

- Direct support services
- Nursing services
- Psychological services
- Social services
- Nutrition services
- Physical therapy
- Respite care
- Medical services
- Occupational therapy
- Transportation services
- Self-advocacy groups

Application Process

There is not a separate application process. Available to individuals in Medicaid who require these services.

⁹⁷ CMS (July 28, 2020), Rhode Island Comprehensive Demonstration, op cit.

⁹⁸ BHDDH. Shared Living Arrangement (SLA). Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://bhddh.ri.gov/developmental-disabilities/services-adults/shared-living-arrangement-sla>.

⁹⁹ BHDDH. Eligibility and Application. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://bhddh.ri.gov/developmental-disabilities/eligibility-and-application>.

¹⁰⁰ BHDDH. Rhode Island Community Living and Supports (RICLAS) Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://bhddh.ri.gov/developmental-disabilities/services-adults/riclas>.

ACCESS TO INDEPENDENCE

“The Access to Independence program provides funding in the form of grants and/or loans to families and caregivers of individuals with developmental disabilities to make modifications within their homes to furnish and install equipment to improve accessibility.”¹⁰¹

Eligibility

Individuals must meet the following criteria:

- Must have a developmental disability and be at least 17 years old
- Must meet income requirements
- Must request for equipment or home modification that meets an assessed need as determined by a doctor or physical therapist¹⁰²

Available Services

This program does not offer services; it is a cost subsidy program. This program provides funding for home modification and equipment including ramps, stair glides, railings, chair lifts, kitchen or bathroom conversions, roll-in showers, or van conversions. “Requested home modifications must provide for improvements or modifications to the dwelling for the care and/or mobility needs of an eligible person to allow the person to safely and comfortably reside in his/her home.”¹⁰³

- Up to \$50,000 in grants and loans for homeowners
- Up to \$20,000 in grants to renters

Application Process

To apply for services, individuals must complete an Access to Independence application and submit it to the state along with pricing quotes from at least two service providers for the desired home modification.¹⁰⁴

PROJECTS FOR ASSISTANCE IN TRANSITION FROM HOMELESSNESS (PATH) GRANT

Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) is a formula grant that is awarded to states and funds programs for people with serious mental illness who are experiencing homelessness.¹⁰⁵

Eligibility¹⁰⁶

This program is available for service providers.

Available Services

This program does not offer services; it is a grant program. Entities receiving grants under the PATH formula grant program expend funds for the following services:

- Outreach
- Screening and diagnostic treatment
- Habilitation and rehabilitation
- Community mental health
- Alcohol or drug treatment
- Staff training
- Case management services
- Referrals for primary health services
- Housing services

¹⁰¹ BHDDH. Equipment and Home Modifications. Access to Independence Presentation. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://bhddh.ri.gov/developmental-disabilities/services-adults/equipment-and-home-modifications>.

¹⁰² Ibid.

¹⁰³ Ibid.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid.

¹⁰⁵ BHDDH. BHDDH Grant Information. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://bhddh.ri.gov/mental-health/bhddh-grant-information>.

¹⁰⁶ BHDDH. RI 2020 PATH Application. Retrieved May 24, 2023, from <https://bhddh.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur411/files/documents/RI-2020-PATH-Application.pdf>.

Provider Application

Providers can apply for funding with an online application located on the BHDDH web page: [RI-2020-PATH-Application.pdf](#).

Department of Health

The Rhode Island Department of Health (DOH) coordinates all public health activities and services throughout the state under their declared mission to “prevent disease and protect and promote the health and safety of the people of Rhode Island.”¹⁰⁷ DOH is established with the following mission: “prevent disease and protect and promote the health and safety of the people of Rhode Island.”¹⁰⁸ In addition, DOH lists its “leading priorities” as:

- “Address the socioeconomic and environmental determinants of health
- Eliminate health disparities and promote health equity
- Ensure access to quality health services for all Rhode Islanders, including the state’s vulnerable populations.”¹⁰⁹

Program eligibility information for DOH programs is described below.

LEAD POISONING PREVENTION

The Environmental Lead Program “protects the health and safety of children, workers, and the general public by identifying and decreasing environmental lead hazards.”¹¹⁰ Within the Department of Health, the Center for Healthy Homes and Environment coordinates statewide effort to reduce and eliminate lead hazards in the environment and works to develop and implement policy to enforce health housing and safer work practices.

The program takes the following actions to prevent lead poisoning in the state:

- “Ensure that children under 6 years of age are screened for lead poisoning.
- Collect blood level test results for children younger than 6 years of age to evaluate screening and lead poisoning trends.
- Refer children with blood lead levels above the reference level (5 mcg/dL) to case management and in-home education services.
- Offer comprehensive environmental inspection of homes of children younger than 6 years of age with significant blood lead levels.
- Conduct outreach and education about the dangers of lead poisoning.
- Offer free educational materials.
- Partner with the Rhode Island Alliance for Healthy Housing to improve housing in Rhode Island.
- Set parameters for licensing lead professionals to conduct environmental inspections and remove lead hazards from properties.
- Conduct filed investigations on sites where lead hazard removal is being performed to ensure that workers are appropriately licensed and follow lead-safe work practices.
- Enforce and inform the public about Lead poisoning prevention regulations.”¹¹¹

This prevention program does have eligibility criteria or an application process.

NURSE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

The Nurse Family Partnership provides resources to assist first-time pregnant people in their pregnancies and early parenthood. with finding prenatal care, providing education to increase knowledge about pregnancy, labor, and delivery, offering support around child growth and development, and linking families with social services and

¹⁰⁷ DOH. About Us. Retrieved May 25, 2023, from <https://health.ri.gov/about/>.

¹⁰⁸ DOH. Public Health Accreditation. Retrieved May 25, 2023, from <https://health.ri.gov/about/accreditation/>.

¹⁰⁹ DOH, About Us, op cit.

¹¹⁰ DOH. Environmental Lead Program. Retrieved May 25, 2023, from https://health.ri.gov/programs/detail.php?pgm_id=1071.

¹¹¹ Ibid.

community resources.¹¹² Nurse home visitors can meet with pregnant individuals in their own homes to provide one-on-one assistance and support.

Eligibility

Individuals must meet the following criteria:

- Experiencing a first pregnancy
- Pregnancy is currently at a gestational age of less than 28 weeks.¹¹³

Available Services

- Assistance with finding prenatal care
- Education to increase knowledge about pregnancy, labor, and delivery
- Support around child growth and development
- Assistance for families to find other social services and community resources
- Nurse home visitors can meet with pregnant individuals in their own homes to provide one-on-one assistance and support

Application Process

To apply for services, individuals may contact Children's Friend directly at: <https://www.cfsri.org/contact-us/>. Individuals can also be referred by a service provider.

STATE TOBACCO QUITLINE/RI NICOTINE HELPLINE

The Rhode Island Nicotine Helpline, 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669), is a free service that connects people with nicotine dependency to multi-session live telephone counseling or web coaching, self-help tools, and referrals to other addiction treatment and cessation services.¹¹⁴

Eligibility

There are no eligibility criteria. The program is open to any Rhode Island resident with nicotine dependency.¹¹⁵

Application Process

None. Anyone in Rhode Island may obtain services by directly calling this toll-free number: 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669).

WOMEN'S CANCER SCREENING PROGRAM

The Women's Cancer Screening Program coordinates with healthcare providers to identify breast and cervical cancer in their earliest stages and helps uninsured women in Rhode Island apply for Medicaid to cover the cost of treatment for breast or cervical cancer.¹¹⁶

Eligibility¹¹⁷

Individuals must meet the following criteria:

- A woman aged 21 and over living in Rhode Island
- Income up to 250% FPL
- Uninsured or have insurance that does not cover the cost of screenings

¹¹² DOH. Office of Family Visiting. Retrieved May 25, 2023, from https://health.ri.gov/programs/detail.php?pgm_id=176.

¹¹³ DOH. Nurse-Family Partnership. Retrieved May 25, 2023, from <https://health.ri.gov/find/services/detail.php?id=36>.

¹¹⁴ DOH. Taking your first steps toward becoming tobacco free. Retrieved May 25, 2023, from <https://ri.quitlogix.org/en-US/>.

¹¹⁵ DOH. About the Quitline Programs. Retrieved May 25, 2023, from <https://ri.quitlogix.org/en-US/About-The-Program/Quitline-Programs>.

¹¹⁶ DOH. Women's Cancer Screening Program. Retrieved May 25, 2023, from <https://health.ri.gov/programs/womenscancerscreening/>.

¹¹⁷ Ibid.

Available Services

Pelvic exams, Pap tests, human papillomavirus (HPV) tests, clinical breast exams, mammograms, and additional diagnostic tests that are recommended based upon age or clinical criteria.¹¹⁸

Application Process

To apply for services, individuals may contact a participating provider for appropriate cancer screenings. Participating providers will assist individuals in enrollment into the program. Providers will also assist uninsured women who may be eligible for Medicaid to complete the application process.

WISEWOMAN

WISEWOMAN provides additional preventive health services to eligible women enrolled in the Women’s Cancer Screening Program (WCSP) and to women enrolled in Rhode Island Medicaid.¹¹⁹

Eligibility¹²⁰

Individuals must meet the following criteria:

- Enrolled in the Women’s Cancer Screening Program
- A woman aged 40-64

Available Services

- Lifestyle programs for participants at no cost address diet, physical activity, tobacco use, and other disease prevention and management behaviors.

Application Process

Not applicable.

WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)

WIC benefits provide mothers and their infants and children with one-on-one nutrition counseling, referrals to services they may need, health screenings, and a food prescription to purchase nutritious foods which are designed to meet the specific needs of a family. There is no cost for WIC participation.

Eligibility

Rhode Island residents who are pregnant, breastfeeding, or up to six months postpartum, any parents or guardians of a child up to the age of 5 and who meet the income guidelines, as shown in Figure 14.

FIGURE 14: WIC FEDERAL INCOME GUIDELINES

| WIC Federal Income Guidelines¹²¹ | | |
|--|---------------|----------------|
| May 1, 2022-June 30, 2023 | | |
| Family Size | Annual | Monthly |
| 1 | \$25,142 | \$2,096 |
| 2 | \$33,874 | \$2,823 |
| 3 | \$42,606 | \$3,551 |
| 4 | \$51,338 | \$4,279 |
| 5 | \$60,070 | \$5,006 |
| 6 | \$68,802 | \$6,462 |

Note: A pregnant woman’s family size for eligibility is calculated to include unborn child(ren).

Available Services

¹¹⁸ Ibid.

¹¹⁹ DOH. WISEWOMAN. Retrieved May 25, 2023, from https://health.ri.gov/programs/detail.php?pgm_id=1001

¹²⁰ DOH. Annual Women’s Cancer Screening Program (WCSP)/WISEWOMAN Enrollment Form. Retrieved May 25, 2023, from <https://health.ri.gov/forms/enrollment/WomensCancerScreeningAndWisewoman.pdf>.

¹²¹ DOH (May 2022). WIC Federal Income Guidelines. Retrieved May 25, 2023, from <https://health.ri.gov/publications/requirements/WICFederalIncomeGuidelines.pdf>.

- One-on-one nutrition counseling
- Referrals to social services
- Health screenings
- Food prescriptions

Application Process

Applications to the WIC program are made at a local WIC healthcare service agency. The local agency is responsible for informing applicants of eligibility requirements, accepting applications, determining eligibility or ineligibility, and distributing WIC benefits. Individuals can find more information at: <https://health.ri.gov/find/services/detail.php?id=44>

Department of Children, Youth, and Families

The Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) is the state child welfare, children's mental health, and juvenile corrections services agency, established with the following mission: "to partner with families and communities to raise safe and healthy children and youth in a caring environment."¹²² DCYF includes the following program areas: Child Protective Services, Foster Care, the Division of Youth Development, Family Care Community Partnerships, the Family Service Units; and Community Service and Behavioral Health. DCYF also operates the Rhode Island Training School with federal oversight from the U.S. Department of Justice. The Rhode Island Training School (RITS) is a secure correctional program for male and female youth who are detained or sentenced to the facility by order of the Rhode Island Family Court. The RITS provides for the rehabilitation of youth through a comprehensive continuum of services provided in partnership with families, the community, and DCYF. All youth incarcerated at the RITS receive educational services in accordance with their academic level or individual education plan.¹²³

While they are identified as programs below, the work of Child Protective Services, foster care and adoption, licensing, and the Family Services Unit operate together to provide the needed services and oversight activities of caring for children and youth who are in need of their services.

FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES

The Family First Prevention Service program is for children ages 0 to 17 who are at risk of entering foster care, pregnant, or parenting youth in foster care, and for parents or relative caregivers of those children and youth. The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) enables states to use federal funding to cover the cost of services that help support families and prevent children from entering the foster care system. Under this federal legislation, FFPSA allows Title IV-E funding for mental health services, substance use treatment, and in-home parent skill-based programs for children or youth.

Eligibility

There are two functional eligibility pathways for FFPSA either through DCYF or through Family Care Community Partnerships (FCCPs).

Available Services

Some service examples include evidence-based programs (EPBs) such as functional family therapy, motivational interviewing, and parent-child interaction therapy.

Application Process

None. There are several pathways to obtain services:

- Youth enters through DCYF or FCCPs
- Preventive service need identified through assessment and documented in service plan
- Completion of a Service Referral Form

¹²² DCFY. About. Retrieved May 25, 2023, from <https://dcyf.ri.gov/our-office>.

¹²³ DCFY. The Rhode Island Training School. Retrieved May 25, 2023, from <https://dcyf.ri.gov/juvenile-corrective-services>.

FAMILY CARE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS (FCCPS)

Family Care Community Partnerships (FCCPs) are the DCFY's primary prevention resource for the state. FCCPs partner with families and communities to raise healthy children in a safe, caring environment.

Eligibility

Eligibility for these services are children, ages 0 to 17, who have a serious emotional disturbance (SED) or a developmental disability (DD) that places them at risk for involvement with DCYF. Another avenue for eligibility is youth that are being discharged from the RITS (a juvenile justice program).

Available Services

FCCPs provide a wide range of services that are community-based, including referrals, triage, needs screenings, intakes, resource information, linkages to community-based resources, and wraparound services.

Application Process

None. Referrals for services may either come through DCYF or medical professionals, schools, or individuals with direct contact with the youth or child. FCCPs are mainly funded through DCYF and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and there are no associated costs to participants.

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Child Protective Services (CPS) within DCYF "is the investigative division of the department and includes the Department's abuse and neglect hotline. CPS receives, screens, and responds to reports of suspected child maltreatment."¹²⁴ Reports of abuse and neglect may come from several sources such as the public, courts, hospitals, police departments, parents, relatives, schools, etc. The CPS unit operates 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.¹²⁵

Eligibility

Reports of abuse and neglect may come from several sources such as the public, courts, hospitals, police departments, parents, relatives, schools, etc. Anyone can call the DCYF hotline at 1-800-RI-CHILD to report suspected abuse or neglect.¹²⁶

Rhode Island law (RI General Laws § 40-11-3; 40-11-6) requires all individuals in Rhode Island to be mandated reporters. "This means any person who has reasonable cause to know or suspect any child has been abused or neglected (as defined by law) or is a victim of sexual abuse by another child, must report this information to the DCYF within twenty-four (24) hours."¹²⁷

Available Services

- The division ensures each child and youth is protected from harm through the timely investigation of reports of child abuse and neglect.

Application Process

None. A CPS investigation will be initiated "when a report meets a combination of the following criteria:

- A reporter has expressed concerns about a child under the age of eighteen (18), who lives in Rhode Island in his/her own home.
- A reporter has expressed concerns about a child under the age of twenty-one (21), who is living in DCYF foster or institutionalized care.
- Harm or substantial risk of harm to the child must be present.
- A specific incident or pattern of incidents suggesting child abuse and/or neglect must be identified.

¹²⁴ DCYF. Child Protective Services. Retrieved May 25, 2023, from <https://dcyf.ri.gov/services/child-protective-services>.

¹²⁵ Ibid.

¹²⁶ Ibid.

¹²⁷ Ibid.

- The potential perpetrator of abuse is a person responsible for the child’s welfare or is living in the same home as the child. For example:
 - A parent, guardian, or foster parent.
 - A residential home or facility staff.
 - Child day care staff or other childcare provider.
 - An employee, agent, contractor, or volunteer of an educational program when the allegation involves sexual abuse of a child.
 - Anyone suspected of sex trafficking a child.¹²⁸

FAMILY SERVICES UNIT

The Family Services Unit (FSU) division of DCYF “becomes involved with families after a CPS investigation has been conducted and a determination was made that services are needed to address abuse, neglect, or dependency within the family”;¹²⁹ thus the functions are involuntary.

Eligibility

- After CPS has investigated and determined that a case should be “opened,” the family is assigned an FSU worker.

Available Services

The goal of the FSU is to assist families and youth in accessing services and supports needed to stay in their own homes or safely return and maintain children in the home. The FSU works with the family to develop family goals and identify the “appropriate services and supports” needed by the family.¹³⁰ Collaboration and case management are integral parts of the services the FSU provides. Family Services Unit staff are state employees who are based in offices throughout the state.¹³¹

Application Process

None. Available to individuals for whom a CPS investigation has been conducted and need has been established.

FOSTER CARE AND ADOPTION

After an investigation is completed by CPS and it is determined that the “children and youth cannot safely live with their own families, DCYF identifies an alternative family setting (often referred to as foster care) where they can be safe and thrive – sometimes temporarily and sometimes permanently.”¹³² Often foster parents are relative caregivers or kinship caregivers. If not a relative, children are placed with other foster parents who are licensed through the state of Rhode Island.¹³³ The main “goal of the foster care system is to safely reunite children with their birth families whenever possible.”¹³⁴ When that is not possible, DCYF works with partner agencies to match the child or youth with an adoptive family.

Eligibility

In order to be a foster or adoptive parent (an “anchor”) an individual must:

- “Be 21 years old or older
- Pass background check
- Be in good enough health to care for a child
- Be able to make ends meet financially”¹³⁵

¹²⁸ Ibid.

¹²⁹ DCYF. Division of Family Services. Retrieved May 25, 2023, from <https://dcyf.ri.gov/services/family-service-unit>.

¹³⁰ Ibid.

¹³¹ DCYF. Family Services Staffing. Retrieved May 25, 2023, from <https://dcyf.ri.gov/services/family-service-unit/family-services-staffing>.

¹³² DCYF. Foster Care and Adoption. Retrieved May 25, 2023, from <https://dcyf.ri.gov/services/foster-care-adoption>.

¹³³ Ibid.

¹³⁴ Ibid.

¹³⁵ DCYF. Apply to Be An Anchor. Retrieved May 25, 2023, from <https://dcyf.ri.gov/services/foster-care-adoption/apply-be-anchor>.

Additionally, if an individual is fostering a child under the age of 6 and owns or rents a home, the home must pass lead inspection.¹³⁶ Individuals can learn more about the process in the “Foster Care and Adoption Regulations for Licensure Guidance Document”¹³⁷ at: <https://dcyf.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur416/files/documents/fostercare-adoption-guidance-document-v1-2017.pdf>.

Available Services

Not applicable

Application Process

DCYF has a statewide plan to recruit and retain foster care families in Rhode Island. The “Be an Anchor” campaign began in 2017 and continues today, with “the goal that all children and youth should be cared for in a safe, supportive family setting.”¹³⁸ Actively recruiting foster care families works to increase capacity in the system.

DCYF is responsible for “the licensing, monitoring and enforcing regulations in all foster homes, residential facilities, and agencies who place children.”¹³⁹ The mission within licensing is to ensure that providers deliver the health, safety, and well-being of children in their care, through compliance with applicable regulations.¹⁴⁰ The licensing activities of the DCYF are authorized by Rhode Island General Law §42-72.1. Applications to be a foster parent can be submitted online using the applicant portal located at: <https://family.binti.com/users/signup/ri-rfa>. If approved, a license is valid for two years.¹⁴¹

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

The Division of Community Services and Behavioral Health (CSBH) is “responsible for developing a continuum of care for children’s behavioral health services that supports children to live in family settings.”¹⁴² It strives to work “collaboratively with community providers and other state organizations in developing a comprehensive system of care that ensures effective services are provided to children in the least restrictive environment possible.”¹⁴³ CSBH works to prevent hospitalization through matching individuals with appropriate community services and working to improve access to quality community services.¹⁴⁴ The work of the division is authorized by Rhode Island General Laws § 42-72-5.2, which directed DCYF and DHS to work together to develop a continuum of care for children’s behavioral health services and present that to the general assembly in 2006.¹⁴⁵

CSBH assists children and families access needed services such as behavioral health and other services that are identified based on assessments. CSBH consists of multiple units, each of which has separate functions:

Central Referral Unit: Responsible for processing congregate care and community-based service referrals.¹⁴⁶

Congregate care matches children to the most appropriate group home or residential program to address behavioral health or cognitive needs.¹⁴⁷ Home-based services are preferred whenever possible to support children with behavioral health needs or who have an intellectual disability.¹⁴⁸

Assessment: DCYF uses the nationally validated, standardized Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment for anyone entering residential care or foster care.¹⁴⁹ The Assessment unit also provides training for staff

¹³⁶ Ibid.

¹³⁷ DCYF (February 6, 2017). Foster Care and Adoption Regulations for Licensure Guidance Document. Retrieved May 25, 2023, from <https://dcyf.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur416/files/documents/fostercare-adoption-guidance-document-v1-2017.pdf>.

¹³⁸ DCYF. Be an Anchor: 2022-2023 Statewide Plan for the Recruitment and Retention of Foster Families. Retrieved May 25, 2023, from <https://dcyf.ri.gov/media/3076/download?language=en> (PDF download).

¹³⁹ DCYF. Licensing. Retrieved May 25, 2023, from <https://dcyf.ri.gov/services/licensing>.

¹⁴⁰ Ibid.

¹⁴¹ DCYF (February 6, 2017), Foster Care And Adoption Regulations, op cit.

¹⁴² DCYF. The Division of Community Services & Behavioral Health (CSBH). Retrieved May 25, 2023, from <https://dcyf.ri.gov/programs-and-services/behavioral-health>.

¹⁴³ Ibid.

¹⁴⁴ Ibid.

¹⁴⁵ Rhode Island General Laws § 42-72-5.2 (2006). Development of a Continuum of Children’s Behavioral Health Programs. Retrieved May 25, 2023, from <http://webserver.rilin.state.ri.us/Statutes/TITLE42/42-72/42-72-5.2.HTM>.

¹⁴⁶ DCYF. Central Referral Unit. Retrieved May 25, 2023, from <https://dcyf.ri.gov/services/behavioral-health/central-referral-unit>.

¹⁴⁷ Ibid.

¹⁴⁸ Ibid.

¹⁴⁹ DCYF. Assessments. Retrieved May 25, 2023, from <https://dcyf.ri.gov/programs-and-services/behavioral-health/assessments>.

on how to use the CANS assessment tool.¹⁵⁰ Additionally, a level of need (LON) assessment is used for all placement requests. This LON assessment uses modules of CANS and additional questions to assign a LON to the child.¹⁵¹ For children referred to DCYF by the courts, the Diagnostic Assessment Service provides a comprehensive assessment and report using psychosocial history, educational reports, and IQ testing to develop treatment recommendations.¹⁵²

Utilization Management (UM): “The UM unit is responsible for performing reviews to ensure continued congregate care placement reflects level of need, assess service quality and effectiveness towards clinical and functional goals and reinforce progress towards timely permanence for children.” The unit strives to ensure that children and youth are in the placement that is appropriate to their needs.¹⁵³

Medicaid program management: “The Medicaid Program Management unit reviews programs to ensure compliance with Medicaid regulations and performs quality assurance reviews of program documentation. In addition, Medicaid Program Management assists with the development of Medicaid claiming for new services, especially home and community-based services.”¹⁵⁴

The CSBH also provides the certification for providers of mental health emergency services and tracks the utilization of mental health emergency services.¹⁵⁵

THE RHODE ISLAND TRAINING SCHOOL (RITS)

The Rhode Island Training School (RITS) is a secure correctional program for male and female youth who are detained and/or sentenced to the facility by order of the Rhode Island Family Court.

Eligibility

The RITS is a correctional program for male and female youth who have been ordered or sentenced by the Rhode Island Family Court.

Available Services

The RITS provides rehabilitation for youth through a comprehensive continuum of services provided in partnership with families, the community, and DCYF. Through this program, youth are provided supervision, security, education, behavioral health, and physical health services. Once discharged, the youth is eligible for FCCPs.

Application Process

None. Services are assigned through court order.

YOUTH DIVERSION PROGRAMMING

Youth Diversion programs are community-based programs for youths ages 9 to 17 years old who are not currently involved with DCYF.

Eligibility

Eligibility for the programming is families with issues affecting the youth and family’s emotional, physical, psychological, and social well-being.

Available Services

Services are provided in the first 90 days that include needs assessment, crisis intervention, case planning, family mediation, outreach services, access to community resources, and counseling.

¹⁵⁰ Ibid.

¹⁵¹ Ibid.

¹⁵² Ibid.

¹⁵³ The UM unit is responsible for performing reviews to ensure continued congregate care placement reflects level of need, assessing service quality and effectiveness toward clinical and functional goals, and reinforcing progress toward timely permanence for children.

¹⁵⁴ DCYF. Medicaid Program Management. Retrieved May 25, 2023, from <https://dcyf.ri.gov/programs-and-services/behavioral-health/medicaid-program-management>.

¹⁵⁵ Ibid.

Application Process

None. This program is available by referral only. Referrals may come from truancy courts, juvenile hearing boards, youth centers, police, or the family themselves.

WAYWARD/DISOBEDIENT PROGRAMS

Wayward/Disobedient programs (WDPs) are available to parents and guardians experiencing problems at home with their child(ren) 12 to 17 years of age.

Eligibility

Youth who are habitually engaging in serious behavior that would be considered disobedient to lawful commands of their parents or guardians are eligible for WDPs.

Available Services

Family support services including family meetings, role-modeling and coaching through the process of a Strength/Needs/Culture/ Discovery, and wraparound planning.

Application Process

To apply for services, a parent or guardian may contact their local police department and ask about a wayward/disobedient petition. WDPs are a completely voluntary service that is only conducted upon request from a parent or guardian. The local police department will then connect the family to a local FCCP, which delivers the program. The family must engage with the services for 90 days.

Summary and Approach for Phase Two

This report outlines the eligibility standards for a broad array of social and human services that fall under the purview of the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS). This report summarizes the key programs that fall within the scope of Rhode Island General Laws § 42-14.5-3(t).

In Phase Two of this report, we will provide assessment and evaluation on a subset of the programs noted in this report for further review. In that process, substantive evaluation of enrollment and eligibility processes will be conducted, comparing operations with other states in the region and national best practices. Identification of leading practices and possible opportunities for improvements may be noted.

Limitations

The information contained in this report has been prepared for the State of Rhode Island, Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner (OHIC) and their advisors. Milliman's work is prepared solely for the use and benefit of the OHIC in accordance with its statutory and regulatory requirements. Milliman recognizes this report will be public record subject to disclosure to third parties. However, Milliman does not intend to benefit and assumes no duty or liability to any third parties who receive Milliman's work. To the extent that the information contained in this correspondence is provided to any third parties, the correspondence should be distributed in its entirety.

The recommendations or analysis in this presentation do not constitute legal advice. We recommend that users of this material consult with their own legal counsel regarding interpretation of applicable laws, regulations, and requirements.

In preparing this information, we relied on information provided by EOHSS and the Departments under EOHHS oversight. We accepted this information without audit but reviewed the information for general reasonableness. Our results and conclusions may not be appropriate if this information is not accurate.

The services provided for this project were performed under the contract between Milliman and OHIC dated January 26, 2023.

Guidelines issued by the American Academy of Actuaries require actuaries to include their professional qualifications in all actuarial communications. Jason Clarkson is a member of the American Academy of Actuaries and meets the qualification standards for performing the analyses in this report.