



## **What is a Provider Rate Study?**

In Fall 2021, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) started a study to learn about the rates paid to providers of health care services. The rate study was approved using Montana House Bill 632, Section 20, Subsection 2b and House Bill 155, Section 1. The bill asked DPHHS to do a cost and wage survey to learn if rates need to change, if necessary, to keep the services paid for at the level needed.

### **What is a rate study? Do we have to do one?**

A rate study is done to look at costs to provide health care services. The study will help us form a baseline of costs needed to pay staff, buy supplies, travel, keep up buildings, etc. Based on what is learned in the provider rate study, the Department will then suggest changes to rates for legislative funding consideration. These changes must follow federal and state regulations for funding of services. The study covers Medicaid-funded behavioral health, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and senior long-term services and support programs.

### **What will happen during the rate study?**

The rate study will gather baseline information to help determine what is needed to update payment rates based upon how much it costs providers to deliver services.

The study will look at how much staff are paid, if they get benefits, and extra pay for working overtime. It will also look at other costs, like supplies needed, travel, building costs, etc. Studying this information will help the State consider any need for changes to the rates in the future. More information can be found on this website:

[Rate Study Webpage.](#)

The State has been working with four Rate Study work groups. Each group includes providers, state agency leaders, advocates, and some state legislators along with the Lieutenant Governor. These people have been providing feedback and information to assure the information used for rate projection contain all the costs to cover the services. Meetings have been happening once a month since January 2022. They are public meetings that you can watch live and provide public comment. You can also watch past meetings on the [Rate Study Webpage.](#)

### **What does the rate study mean for waiver health care workers?**

- One goal of the rate study is to make sure reimbursement rates pay for services at a level that follows the law. Such laws focus on ensuring services help all people access the right care in a time and place of their choice.
- A strong provider network will help quality workers provide high-quality services that can meet the needs of those receiving services.
- The State is not making any changes to the types or number of services provided.

### **What does the rate study mean for health care workers?**

- The State knows that costs of delivering services have changed over the last two years. The rate Medicaid pays may not be enough to cover costs. A rate study will help us to learn more about changes to set rates to help meet these needs.



*Understanding The Montana Provider Rate Study for the Health Care Worker*  
**Montana Department of Public Health and Human Service Rate Study**

**How can I be involved in the rate study?**

- On June 6, 2022, from 5:30 pm to 7 pm, there will be an **on-line presentation** explaining the rate study and providing more information to people providing health care services reimbursed through Medicaid and other funding sources. You can join this meeting at this following Zoom Link:

<https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/86180081462?pwd=nIF1iqbuk9pIqVVEbv97StAeCPDONy.1>

Meeting ID: 861 8008 1462

Password: 751478

- You will also have a chance to share ideas during a **public comment meeting** on June 15, 2022, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm by joining the following Zoom Link:

<https://mt-gov.zoom.us/j/86033290295?pwd=QIBCbDNNQmorR2kxeVc0R1Y3Nk1xUT09>

Meeting ID: 860 3329 0295

Password: 020298

**Stay up to date on the Rate Study activities by reviewing the web page on the DPHHS website at [Rate Study Webpage](#). We welcome your questions and input! You can email us with any questions or comments at [mt-dphhs-rates@guidehouse.com](mailto:mt-dphhs-rates@guidehouse.com) or you can email Jackie Jandt at [jjandt@mt.gov](mailto:jjandt@mt.gov)**