



## Notice of Public Comment Meeting

### Montana Department of Public Health and Human Service Rate Study

#### Update on Provider Rate Study

In September 2021, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) began a study to look at the rates for providers of home and community-based services (HCBS). The rate study was approved through Montana House Bill 632, Section 20, Subsection 2b and House Bill 155, Section 1, which recommended performing a study to conduct a provider cost and wage survey to determine the appropriateness of current provider rates and make recommendations to change provider rates, if necessary, to maintain services. This study is nearly complete, and a report will go to DPHHS at the end of June. **The public is invited to a public comment session to review and provide feedback on proposed rate changes on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 11 AM MST.**

#### Why was there a rate study?

A rate study is done to look at costs of providing services within Medicaid waivers. The study was done to help us to understand costs needed to pay staff, buy supplies, travel, maintain buildings, etc. Based on what we have learned, there are proposed changes to rates to meet changes in the costs of providing services and to meet federal rules about Medicaid rates.

#### What services were studied?

Services studied include those offered in Medicaid-funded behavioral health, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and senior long-term services and support programs. All members of the public who provide, receive, or are interested these services are provided are invited to attend the public meeting. More detail on services studied may be found at the [Rate Study Webpage](#) or you can type <https://ratestudy.mt.gov> in your browser.

#### What happened during the study?

The rate study will help us to gather information and update payment rates for Medicaid waivers. The study will consider how much it costs providers to deliver services. The study looked at how much employees are paid, if they get benefits or extra pay for working overtime, the costs of supplies they use to provide services, etc. More information can be found on this website: [Rate Study Webpage](#).

The State also met with several groups of Rate Study Stakeholders made up of service providers, provider association representatives, state agency leaders, advocates, and state legislators. Groups provided input throughout the study. These monthly meetings were public. You can review past meetings on the [Rate Study Webpage](#).

#### What will happen during the upcoming meeting?

You will have a chance to share comments, thoughts, and feedback during a public comment meeting on **June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022**, at 11 AM MST. The public meeting will be held virtually and recorded. The study team and DPHHS leadership will consider all comments as they review study recommendations and plan next steps.

#### Agenda

The agenda for this public comment meeting is as follows:

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Informational Background on the Rate Study**
3. **Sharing Proposed Rate Recommendations**
4. **Public Comment Period**

***You can also 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)***