



Alaska Medicaid Long Term Services and Supports Rate Review Project Overview

The Alaska Medicaid Rate Review project is focused on evaluating and improving how the Alaska Medicaid program pays for services. This project segment specifically looks at payment methods for Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS). This summary outlines the rate review process and its intended goals.

What is the purpose of the Medicaid LTSS Rate Review Project?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of this project is to help the Department of Health (DOH) develop fair and transparent Medicaid payment methodologies for long term services and supports. • It will analyze providers' actual costs and other relevant data to recommend rates that cover necessary expenses and address challenges faced by Alaskan providers. • The recommended rates should promote access to care, support budget sustainability, and allow for regular updates to reflect changing costs and resources in the state. • The project will also ensure that rate recommendations comply with federal standards for efficiency, accessibility, and quality of care.
What information will be considered in the LTSS rate review process?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOH will analyze cost and wage data from reliable sources including provider-submitted surveys, public sources like the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Consumer Price Index, and historical Medicaid claims and enrollment data. • DOH will meet regularly with a rate workgroup, made up of providers, provider representatives, and subject matter experts who will offer input throughout the study. • Additionally, DOH will offer opportunities for provider and public feedback, including listening sessions with the larger LTSS community – such as people with lived experiences and their caregivers. These sessions offer space to discuss specific services in detail, confirm operational assumptions, and better understand individual needs and service utilization.
How will the rate review impact providers?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rate review will evaluate current payment methodologies and explore potential improvements. The intent is to develop recommendations for rates and methodologies that reflect the true cost of care, support provider operations, improve access to care, account for Alaska’s unique complexities, and promote budget sustainability for both providers and the Alaska Medicaid program.
How will the rate review impact Medicaid beneficiaries?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The study will review Medicaid payment structures for long term services and supports to improve access to care for beneficiaries. Recommending a fair methodology for providers will support the delivery of efficient and effective care. Input from beneficiaries will also inform recommendations that address their needs and challenges in accessing healthcare.
How can I get involved in the rate study?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important that all Alaskans have a voice in the process. If you are a provider that would like to be included in the rate study, please contact AKRateStudy_LTSS@guidhouse.com for more information.
What are the next steps after the rate recommendation report is released?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOH will evaluate the findings and select recommendations to move forward. • Selected recommendations will go through the Medicaid budget process, including possible legislative appropriation. They will be reviewed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and be subject to tribal consultation and public comment periods. • Once funded and approved, DOH will implement any required changes. • The effectiveness of any new rates or methodologies will be monitored, with adjustments made as needed to meet the evolving needs of Alaskans.

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