

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**Department of Health Care Finance**



Office of the Senior Deputy Director-Medicaid Director

**Transmittal # 20-30**

TO: All Interested Parties

FROM: Melisa Byrd  
Senior Deputy Director and State Medicaid Director

DATE: August 25, 2020

SUBJECT: **Medicaid Behavioral Health Transformation in the District of Columbia:  
A Roadmap to Integrated Care**

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**Purpose**

The purpose of this transmittal is to inform all interested parties that the Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) and the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) are jointly publishing a Request for Information (RFI) to solicit information from consumer organizations, the provider community, health plans, and others regarding the pathway to integrate behavioral services more fully into the benefits offered through the District's Medicaid managed care program. Overall, DHCF and DBH envision a three-phase approach to Medicaid behavioral health transformation that will result in a whole-person, population-based, integrated Medicaid behavioral health system that is comprehensive, coordinated, high quality, culturally competent, and equitable.

**Background**

Phase I of the District's Medicaid Behavioral Health Transformation efforts were initiated in 2019 with DHCF and DBH's collaboration and joint development of the 1115 Behavioral Health Transformation Waiver. Additionally, DHCF is continuing its progress of developing a more coordinated Medicaid system of care by increasing value based performance expectations in the managed care program and expanding the managed care program in October 2020 to include approximately 19,000 individuals currently served through fee-for-service (FFS). During this first phase, MCOs will be responsible for ensuring coordination among individuals' primary, acute, and behavioral health care needs. This model will allow the District Medicaid managed care program to shift away from a fragmented approach of providing care to individuals most in need of behavioral health services, to ensuring that the total health outcomes of an individual are coordinated.

In Phase II, DHCF plans to include behavioral health services as covered benefits in the District's managed care contracts as of October 1, 2021 with the purpose of improving coordination and providing whole-person care. Phase III will focus on additional efforts to integrate physical and behavioral health for Medicaid beneficiaries in the District of Columbia.

This RFI is exploratory in nature and is designed to solicit feedback from all community members, stakeholders, and partners on Phase II and Phase III of the Medicaid behavioral health

transformation activities. No award will be made as a result of this RFI. DHCF and DBH may share responses publicly in aggregate; however, individual responses and the names of the respondents will not be identified.

**Action**

**Submission Deadline:** Monday, September 21, 2020 at 5:00 PM (ET) via email to [healthinnovation@dc.gov](mailto:healthinnovation@dc.gov).

**Submission Format:** Responses to this RFI should be submitted in a Microsoft Word attachment in 12-inch font size; and double-spaced on 8 ½” by 11” pages. All responses must be limited to a maximum of 20 pages in total, excluding appendices; and include organization name and contact information.

**Contact**

For questions regarding this transmittal, please contact Okechuku Enyia at [okechuku.enyia@dc.gov](mailto:okechuku.enyia@dc.gov).

**Cc:** DC Hospital Association  
DC Primary Care Association  
DC Health Care Association  
DC Home Health Association  
DC Behavioral Health Association  
DC Coalition of Disability Service Providers  
Medical Society of DC