

# InterChange Provider Important Message

**To: Home and Community Based (HCBS) Providers**

**URGENT: ACTION REQUIRED to receive 2% rate increase through value-based payments (VBP)**

**This Important Message replaces the previously posted Important Message dated 9/8/23.**

Funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the Department of Social Services (DSS) Value Based Payment (VBP) aims to create and sustain a value-based fee-for-service delivery model by providing whole-person care through incentive payments to Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) providers based on clearly defined outcomes.

**For the November 2023 payment, benchmarks must be met no later than October 15, 2023** (please note: you will need to provide the agency Tax ID for verification purposes prior to payment being issued). VBP Payments will be based on 2% of expenditures from July 1, 2023 through October 31, 2023. This VBP will be processed in late November and will be based on paid claims from July 1, 2023 through October 31, 2023. **Please save this memo, as it has the links to the Learning Collaborative sessions in the calendar.**

The three requirements are as follows:

- 1. Complete the “Agreement to Identify HIE Administrator” form.** This form will provide the contact information for the person who will serve as your agency’s administrator for the HIE system, including completing HIE training(s) and accessing tools for the HIE portal once it is available. More information will be provided via “Provider Important Message” (IM) through the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program (Gainwell Technology portal). **The form can be found on the last page of this memo.**
- 2. Complete a 1-hour Learning Collaborative related to Racial Health Equity.** The Racial Health Equity Learning Collaborative will be offered on **September 26<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup>**. Sessions will take place at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on these dates. Your agency champion or designee must register, attend, and actively participate in the Learning Collaborative. You may register at this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/racial-equity-learning-collaborative-cultural-humility-tickets-686261585877?aff=oddtcreator>. Links to access the Racial Health Equity Learning Collaborative can be found further below on this Interchange Memo.
- 3. Complete a 1-hour VBP #3 Learning Collaborative- Communication and Documentation in Person Centered Care**

The VBP #3 Learning Collaborative will be offered on **September 25<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup>.** Sessions will take place at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on these dates. Your agency champion or designee must register, attend, and actively participate in the Learning Collaborative. You may register at this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/vbp-lc-3-communication-and-documentation-in-person-centered-care-tickets-698468266387?aff=oddtcreator>. Links to access Learning Collaborative session can be found further below on this Interchange Memo.

**On October 12 only**, both learning collaboratives will be held **in-person** at DSS Central Office, 55 Farmington Avenue, Hartford (first floor) at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. You must register for a session through Eventbrite using this link:

**10 a.m. session:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/vbp-3-and-racial-equity-learning-collaboratives-in-person-session-tickets-706721662517?aff=oddtcreator>

**2 p.m session:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/vbp-3-and-racial-equity-learning-collaboratives-in-person-session-tickets-706726446827?aff=oddtcreator>

Please note the in-person session registration is limited to 30 people per session.

**\*\*NEW PROVIDERS\*\***

***If you are a new provider interested in participating in the VBP, the following requirements must be completed in addition to the requirements listed above:***

- Sign a Simple Data Sharing Organization Agreement (SDSOA) with Connecticut’s statewide Health Information Exchange (also known as CONNIE). The formal agreement will be provided through DocuSign for signature. To receive the formal agreement, each interested HCBS provider will complete and submit the online Commitment to Connect Form (link: [Commit to Connect Form \(jotform.com\)](https://www.jotform.com)).

For any questions *on this requirement only*, contact Heidi Wilson at [heidi.wilson@connect.org](mailto:heidi.wilson@connect.org). Ms. Wilson can only answer questions related to CONNIE and will not be able to provide information on other requirements (e.g., training modules and learning collaboratives).

- Provide the name of your employee who will serve as your agency’s “Champion”. Your agency’s Champion will be required to attend subsequent learning collaboratives.
- Agency employees must enroll in the Trauma Informed Care Racial Equity Lens Initiative and complete a series of web-based trainings on the topic of health equity. Training modules can be accessed using this link: [Home and Community-Based Services - Connecticut’s Investment under the American Rescue Plan Act --Racial Equity Training](#). It is expected that 25% or more of your agency’s staff will complete the following web-based training modules:
  - **Module 1:** Health Literacy and Self-Management
  - **Module 2:** Cultural Humility
  - **Module 3:** Implicit Bias
  - **Module 4:** Racial Microaggressions

If your agency has not completed the previous requirements of verifying participation, completing the USE CASE Agreement with CONNIE, and the completion of the Racial Health Equity Trainings, you will not be eligible for this period's Value Based Payment until these requirements have been met. For more information or if you have additional questions, please contact [DSSARPVBP@ct.gov](mailto:DSSARPVBP@ct.gov).

### Value Based Payment Calendar for September 2023

| Monday                                                                                                                                                                                            | Tuesday                                                                                                                                                                    | Wednesday                                                                                                                                                                                     | Thursday                                                                                                                                                                   | Friday                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>25<br/>Communication and Documentation in Person Centered Care</p> <p>a.m.: <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a></p> <p>p.m.: <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a></p>     | <p>26<br/>Racial Equity Learning Collaborative</p> <p>a.m.: <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a></p> <p>p.m.: <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a></p> | <p>27<br/>Communication and Documentation in Person Centered Care</p> <p>a.m.: <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a></p> <p>p.m.: <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a></p> | <p>28<br/>Racial Equity Learning Collaborative</p> <p>a.m.: <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a></p> <p>p.m.: <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a></p> | <p>29<br/>Communication and Documentation in Person Centered Care</p> <p>a.m.: <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a></p> <p>p.m.: <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a></p> |
| <p>Oct. 2<br/>Communication and Documentation in Person Centered Care</p> <p>a.m.: <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a></p> <p>p.m.: <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a></p> | <p>3<br/>Racial Equity Learning Collaborative</p> <p>a.m.: <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a></p> <p>p.m.: <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a></p>  | <p>4<br/>Communication and Documentation in Person Centered Care</p> <p>a.m.: <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a></p> <p>p.m.: <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a></p>  | <p>5<br/>Racial Equity Learning Collaborative</p> <p>a.m.: <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a></p> <p>p.m.: <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a></p>  | <p>6<br/>Racial Equity Learning Collaborative</p> <p>a.m.: <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a></p> <p>p.m.: <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a></p>                     |
| <p>9<br/>Holiday</p>                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>10<br/>Racial Equity Learning Collaborative</p> <p>a.m.: <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a></p> <p>p.m.: <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a></p> | <p>11<br/>Communication and Documentation in Person Centered Care</p> <p>a.m.: <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a></p> <p>p.m.: <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting</a></p> | <p>12<br/>In-Person Learning Collaboratives</p> <p>(See registration links below)</p>                                                                                      | <p>13</p>                                                                                                                                                                                     |

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12 (IN-PERSON SESSION)**

Register on Eventbrite using the following links:

**10 a.m.:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/vbp-3-and-racial-equity-learning-collaboratives-in-person-session-tickets-706721662517?aff=oddtcreator>

**2 p.m.:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/vbp-3-and-racial-equity-learning-collaboratives-in-person-session-tickets-706726446827?aff=oddtcreator>

**ARP 9817 Value Based Payment Provider Memo**

**\*\*ACTION REQUIRED\*\***

**To:** Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Providers and Home Health Agency (HHA) Providers

**RE:** Value Based Payment October 2023 Benchmark Quarter

Dear HCBS and/or HHA Provider,

The Department of Social Services (DSS) is starting requirements for the VBP benchmark quarter ending October 2023, which are listed below. This quarter’s VBP Benchmark requirements include the following:

1. Identification of your organization’s Health Information Exchange (HIE) Administrator (including completing HIE training (s) and accessing tools for the HIE portal);
2. Completion of Racial Health Equity Learning Collaborative.
3. Completion Person-Centered Learning Collaborative; and
4. **\*\*New providers must complete the above listed items and all previous Racial Health Equity Learning Collaboratives and Signing the USE CASE Agreement with CONNIE.**

**Providers are not able to complete requirement 1 as the HIE portal is under development.**

To be recognized as completing the HIE Administrator requirement for the quarter, this page must be printed, completed, and returned to [DSSARPVBP@ct.gov](mailto:DSSARPVBP@ct.gov) by October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

This page will be used to complete requirement 1 until the portal is available. More information will be provided via Provider Important Message (IM) through the Connecticut Medical Assistance Program (Gainwell Technology portal) at a future date.

***Should you fail to complete Benchmark Requirement 1 within 2 months of the portal’s availability, the Value Based Payment for quarter ending October 2023 may be recouped by the Department of Social Services.***

**Please return this form to the Department of Social Services via email to [DSSARPVBP@ct.gov](mailto:DSSARPVBP@ct.gov) by October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

As a duly authorized official of this provider organization, my organization agrees to identifying a Health Information Exchange (HIE) Administrator, completing training (s) related to the HIE, and accessing tools for the HIE portal, when the information is made available by the Department of Social Services. If the provider entity does not meet this requirement in the future, the Value Based Payment for quarter ending October 2023 may be recouped by the Department of Social Services.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Printed Name**

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_, Duly Authorized \_\_\_\_\_ **Date**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Provider Entity Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Provider Tax ID**

