

# interChange Provider Important Message

To: Home Health Agencies

**Attention: URGENT: FINAL NOTICE - IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED to receive 1% rate increase through value-based payments (VBP)**

Home health agencies have the opportunity to receive a 1 % rate increase by participating in the Department of Social Services' VBP initiative.

VBP will be based on successful attainment of key benchmarks. The first benchmark is due February 1, 2022. To meet this benchmark, HCBS providers will execute data sharing agreements with Connecticut's Health Information Exchange (HIE) [Connie](#) and participate in the DSS-provided *Trauma Informed Care Racial Equity Lens Initiative* training. HCBS providers who meet both benchmarks by February 1, 2022, will receive a 1% supplemental payment based on claims paid from July 1, 2021, through February 28, 2022. Additional information is located at this link: <https://portal.ct.gov/DSS/Common-Elements/Home-and-Community-Based-Services/Value-Based-Payments>.

To get started HCBS Providers will need to complete two tasks to receive the incentive payment:

1. Execute a data sharing agreement with Connie, Connecticut's Health Information Exchange (HIE) by no later than February 1, 2022.
2. Enroll their Supervisors and Managers into the *Trauma Informed Care Racial Equity Lens Initiative* training and complete the first course by no later than February 1, 2022.

## \*\*\*\*\* Getting Started with Connie \*\*\*\*\*

To participate, HCBS organizations will be required to sign a Simple Data Sharing Organization Agreement (SDSOA) with Connie by no later than February 1, 2022. The formal agreement will be provided through DocuSign in early January for signature. To receive the formal agreement, each interested HCBS organization will need to complete and submit the online [Interest in Connecting Form](#). Submitting this form does not obligate you to participate.

## \*\*\*\*\* Getting Started with Training \*\*\*\*\*

To enroll in the *Trauma Informed Care Racial Equity Lens Initiative* training, LTSS organizations will need to complete the attached *LearnCenter Personnel Data - HCBS ARPA Training Form* and submit it to the DSS Office of Organizational & Skill Development (OSD) care of Ana Allendorf and Eric Boisvert at



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[dsslearncentersupport@ct.gov](mailto:dsslearncentersupport@ct.gov). The initial enrollment of managers and supervisors should be submitted by January 10, 2022, and completed by February 1, 2022, to be VBP eligible.

As managers, supervisors and employees complete the first course of the *Trauma Informed Care Racial Equity Lens Initiative* training program, a report will be sent to DSS for processing.

## \*\*\*\*\* Important Dates \*\*\*\*\*

November 30, 2021 - January 7, 2022	LTSS organizations supervisors and managers enrolled in the Trauma Informed Care Racial Equity Lens Initiative.
December 7, 2021	Submission of submit interest in Connecting form [Insert link] from LTSS begins
December 15, 2021	Self-paced HCBS ARPA Racial Equity Training begins.
January 30, 2022	Last day to submit interest in Connecting form [Insert link] from LTSS.
February 1, 2022	Data Sharing Agreement submitted.
February 1, 2022	Determine data sharing capacity building needs of participants.
February 1, 2022	Last day for supervisors and managers to complete Self-paced HCBS ARPA Racial Equity Training.
March 1, 2022	Define data sharing use case and initiative measures.
March 1, 2022	LTSS organizations employees enrolled in the Trauma Informed Care Racial Equity Lens Initiative.
April 1, 2022	Provide data sharing expectations for year 2 participation.
May 1, 2022	Begin connecting LTSS participants for data sharing.
February 1, 2023	All LTSS organizations interested in continuing to participate are connected to Connie and able to access the appropriate data defined in the use case.
February 1, 2023, through 2024	Monthly data collection on LTSS organization utilization rates and to be defined outcome measures.

Providers include those agencies that provide direct support.

**Excluded providers:** Assistive Technology; Environmental Accessibility Modifications, Personal Response System, Skilled Chore, Specialized Medical Equipment, Individual Goods and Services, and all Self-Directed Services.

For more information contact: Dawn Lambert, Co-leader Community Options - 860-424-4897

