

# interChange Provider Important Message

## Attention: Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Providers

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

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.

To be eligible for the November 2024 payment, all benchmark requirements must be completed by October 15, 2024. If you are a provider newly participating in Value Based Payments this period, there are additional requirements you must complete.

VBP Payments will be based on 2% of paid expenditures from July 1, 2024, through October 31, 2024. Payment will be issued no later than November 30, 2024. (please note: you will need to provide the agency Tax ID for verification purposes prior to payment being issued).

*If you are a returning provider, you must complete requirements 1-4. If you are a provider newly participating, you must complete requirements 1-7. For more information or if you have additional questions, please contact [DSSARPVBP@ct.gov](mailto:DSSARPVBP@ct.gov).*

Please see the last pages of this memo for the event calendar and registration links. Please save this memo, as it has the links to the Learning Collaborative sessions in the calendar.

The requirements are as follows:

1. Complete Racial Health Equity web-based training module #5 - “Social Identity Theory”. This module must be completed by at least 25% of your agency’s staff. The module can be accessed using this link: [Home and Community-Based Services - Connecticut’s Investment under the American Rescue Plan Act --Racial Equity Training](#)
2. Complete a 1-hour Learning Collaborative related to the Health Information Exchange (HIE). The Health Information Exchange Learning Collaborative will be offered online on September 4, 6, 9, 10, and 16. Sessions will take place at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on these dates (except September 9; only an afternoon session will be held). Your agency champion or designee must register, attend, and actively participate in

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the Learning Collaborative. You may register using the links in the calendar below.

3. **Complete a 1-hour Learning Collaborative related to Person Centered Planning.** The Person Centered Planning Learning Collaborative will be offered online on **September 4, 6, 10, and 12**. Sessions will take place at **10 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 using the links in the calendar at the end of the memo.
4. **Complete a 1-hour Learning Collaborative related to Racial Health Equity (“Implicit Bias”).** The Racial Health Equity Learning Collaborative will be offered online on **September 3, 5, 12, and 13**. Sessions will take place at **10 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 using the links in the calendar at the end of the memo.
5. **\*\* PROVIDERS NEWLY PARTICIPATING ONLY\*\*** Sign a Simple Data Sharing Organization Agreement (SDSOA) with Connecticut’s statewide Health Information Exchange (also known as Connie). To receive the formal agreement, each interested HCBS provider must complete and submit the online Commitment to Connect Form: [Connie Registration Form \(jotform.com\)](https://jotform.com).

(For questions on this requirement only, contact Heidi Wilson at [heidi.wilson@conniect.org](mailto:heidi.wilson@conniect.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).

6. **\*\* PROVIDERS NEWLY PARTICIPATING ONLY\*\*** Provide contact information for two (2) agency staff who will serve as your agency’s administrators for the HIE system. The staff members named will complete HIE training(s) and access tools for the HIE portal once it is available. To name your agency’s HIE administrators, email [info@conniect.org](mailto:info@conniect.org) with the subject line **“HCBS Program, HIE Admin”**. Provide the following information in the body of the email:
  - a. Your organization name:
  - b. Federal Tax ID:
  - c. Person 1 from your organization who will serve as the HIE admin:
  - d. Person 1 Title:

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- e. Email address of named HIE Admin #1:
- f. Phone number of named HIE Admin #1:
- g. Person 2 from your organization who will serve as the HIE admin:
- h. Person 2 Title:
- i. Email address of named HIE Admin #2:
- j. Phone number of named HIE Admin #2:

7. **\*\* PROVIDERS NEWLY PARTICIPATING ONLY\*\*** 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:

- i. **Module 1:** Health Literacy and Self-Management
- ii. **Module 2:** Cultural Humility
- iii. **Module 3:** Implicit Bias
- iv. **Module 4:** Racial Microaggressions

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## \*\*LEARNING COLLABORATIVE SCHEDULE\*\*

SEPTEMBER 2024				
Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
<b>2)</b> <b>LABOR DAY</b>	<b>3)</b> <a href="#">Racial Equity Learning Collaborative (10-11 am)</a> <a href="#">Racial Equity Learning Collaborative (1-2 pm)</a>	<b>4)</b> <a href="#">PCP Learning Collaborative (10-11 am)</a> <a href="#">PCP Learning Collaborative (1-2 pm)</a> <a href="#">HIE Learning Collaborative (10-11 am)</a> <a href="#">HIE Learning Collaborative (1-2 pm)</a>	<b>5)</b> <a href="#">Racial Equity Learning Collaborative (10-11 am)</a> <a href="#">Racial Equity Learning Collaborative (1-2 pm)</a>	<b>6)</b> <a href="#">PCP Learning Collaborative (10-11 am)</a> <a href="#">PCP Learning Collaborative (1-2 pm)</a> <a href="#">HIE Learning Collaborative (10-11 am)</a> <a href="#">HIE Learning Collaborative (1-2 pm)</a>
<b>9)</b> <a href="#">HIE Learning Collaborative (1-2 pm)</a>	<b>10)</b> <a href="#">PCP Learning Collaborative (10-11 am)</a> <a href="#">PCP Learning Collaborative (1-2 pm)</a> <a href="#">HIE Learning Collaborative (10-11 am)</a> <a href="#">HIE Learning Collaborative (1-2 pm)</a>	<b>11)</b> <b>**In Person**</b> Person Centered Planning and Racial Health Equity <a href="#">Morning session (9-11 am)</a> <a href="#">Afternoon session (12-2 pm)</a>	<b>12)</b> <a href="#">PCP Learning Collaborative (10-11 am)</a> <a href="#">PCP Learning Collaborative (1-2 pm)</a> <a href="#">Racial Equity Learning Collaborative (10-11 am)</a> <a href="#">Racial Equity Learning Collaborative (1-2 pm)</a>	<b>13)</b> <a href="#">Racial Equity Learning Collaborative (10-11 am)</a> <a href="#">Racial Equity Learning Collaborative (1-2 pm)</a>
<b>16)</b> <a href="#">HIE Learning Collaborative (10-11am)</a>  <a href="#">HIE Learning Collaborative (1-2 pm)</a>	<b>17)</b>	<b>18)</b>	<b>19)</b>	<b>20)</b>

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**\*\*IN PERSON\*\*** **On September 11 only**, the Person-Centered Planning and Racial Health Equity Learning Collaboratives will be held **in-person** at DSS, Central Office, 55 Farmington Avenue, Hartford (first floor) at **9 a.m.** and **12 p.m.**

When registering for the in-person sessions, you will receive a confirmation email with an online meeting link. ***Please disregard the online meeting link*** as these sessions will be in-person. The in-person sessions are limited to 25 people per session.