

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 447.205 Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations, the Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) is required to give public notice of any significant proposed change in methods and standards for setting payment rates for services in the SoonerCare program. An I/T/U notice was sent to inform tribal partners of this change on June 20, 2025. The proposed changes were presented at the Tribal Consultation meeting on July 1, 2025, 2025 at 11:00 AM in person and via teleconference.

RHC and FQHC Policy Revisions, Effective date: January 1, 2026, contingent upon CMS approval.

The proposed State Plan amendment amends definition of Rural Health Center (RHC) and Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) core services. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328) added Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT) services and Mental Health Counselor (MHC) services to the definition of RHC/FQHC core services. Those services will be added to the list of RHC/FQHC core services in OHCA policy. The following provider types meet the definition of an MHC: Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), Licensed Behavioral Health Provider (LBHP), and providers with a Licensed Drug and Alcohol Counselor/Mental Health (LADC-MH) credential.

When provided in an RHC or FQHC, core services are reimbursed the facility-specific encounter rate. LMFT services are already reimbursed the encounter rate when provided in an FQHC, therefore the reimbursement for those services will not impacted by this State Plan amendment. All MHC provider type services, except LADC-MH services, are already reimbursed the encounter rate when provided in an FQHC as well. This State Plan amendment will impact reimbursement for LMFT and MHC services provided in an RHC and LADC-MH services provided in an FQHC.

The anticipated budget impact of this State Plan amendment for SFY 2026 (6 months) is \$1,235,883, with \$414,392 in state share. The anticipated budget impact for SFY 2027 is \$2,471,767, with \$839,412 in state share.

Interested persons may visit oklahoma.gov/ohca/policies-and-rules/public-notice to view a copy of the public notice(s) and visit oklahoma.gov/ohca/policies-and-rules/proposed-changes to view a copy of the proposed state plan amendment and a link to provide public comments on the proposal. Persons wishing to present their views in writing or obtain copies of the proposed state plan amendments may do so via mail by writing to: Oklahoma Health Care Authority, Federal Authorities Unit, 4345 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105, or by email at federal.authorities@okhca.org. Written comments or requests for copies of the proposed state plan amendments will be accepted by contacting OHCA as indicated. Comments submitted through the OHCA policy blog will be available for review online at oklahoma.gov/ohca/policies-and-rules/proposed-changes. Other written comments are available upon request at federal.authorities@okhca.org. Comments will be accepted from December 1, 2025 through December 16, 2025.