

## LEGAL NOTICE

### STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND HEALTH SERVICES

#### **Community-Based Mobile Crisis Outreach Response Teams (MCORT)**

TAKE NOTICE that the Department of Human Services, Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) intends to seek approval from the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), for an amendment to the New Jersey Medicaid (Title XIX) State Plan and Alternative Benefit Plan (ABP) to add Community-Based Mobile Crisis Outreach Response Teams (MCORT) to the array of behavioral health crisis services.

Since 2021, the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS) has engaged in a robust planning and implementation process to develop a statewide comprehensive behavioral health crisis system in concert with the rollout of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. Through the passage of P.L. 2022, c.35, State and federal investments, and broad stakeholder support, DHS is committed to establishing a “no wrong-door” approach to the provision of crisis services as reflected in the 2020 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) National Guidelines for Behavioral Health Crisis Care. As such, DHS is building out the three integral components of optimal crisis care for all New Jersey residents — a crisis command center, mobile crisis response services, and crisis receiving and stabilization units.

Community-Based Mobile Crisis Outreach Response Teams (MCORT) provide timely response, individual assessment, crisis stabilization, and timelimited rehabilitative services and supports to Medicaid-enrolled individuals in the community who are suspected of experiencing a mental health and/or substance use disorder-related crisis. MCORT services are designed to achieve crisis symptom reduction, avoid hospitalization, and maintain the individual’s community tenure, when possible. Services will be billed in 15-minute units excluding travel time.

Organizational provider types eligible to provide Mobile Crisis Outreach Response services will be a Medicaid enrolled provider contracted or affiliated with the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services to provide this service. Team members will include Master's Level Supervisors, Bachelor's Level Field Staff, and Peer Support Specialists.

The anticipated annual costs for the proposed Title XIX and ABP amendment for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025 and SFY 2026 is estimated to be \$7,040,000 (\$897,600 State; \$6,142,400 Federal).

The fee schedule will be published on the Department's fiscal agent's website at <https://www.njmmis.com> under "rate and code information" when available.

The ABP was established in accordance with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) when New Jersey expanded Medicaid effective January 1, 2014, to parents and caretaker relatives and childless adults with income up to and including 133% of the federal poverty level. The ACA requires the establishment of an Alternative Benefit package for the Medicaid Expansion populations. The ABP must cover 10 Essential Health Benefits as described in section 1302(b) of the ACA and the State assures that there will be full access to Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) services for people under 21 years of age. A list of services can be found on the DHS website at the site listed below.

This Notice is intended to satisfy the requirements of Federal law and regulations, specifically 42 C.F.R. 440.386, 42 CFR 447.205, and 42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)(13). A copy of this Notice is available for public review at the Medical Assistance Customer Centers, County Welfare Agencies, and the Department's website at:

<http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/providers/grants/public/index.html>.

Comments or inquiries must be submitted in writing within 30 days of the date of this notice to: Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services

Office of Legal and Regulatory Affairs

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