DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-26-12
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

March 19, 2026

Brian Meyer
Deputy Secretary for Medicaid
Florida Agency for Health Care Administration
2727 Mahan Drive, Mail Stop 8
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Dear Brian Meyer:

In accordance with 42 CFR 438.6(c), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has reviewed and is approving Florida's submission of a proposal for a state directed payment (SDP) under Medicaid managed care plan contract(s). The proposal was received by CMS on January 31, 2025, and a final revised preprint was received on February 27, 2026. The proposal has a control name of FL_Fee_PC.NF_Renewal_20250201-20250930.

CMS has completed our review of the following Medicaid managed care SDP(s):

- Uniform Dollar Increase for primary care services and nursing facility services for rating periods covering February 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025, incorporated in the capitation rates through a separate payment term amount up to $11,998,800.

This letter satisfies the regulatory requirement in 42 CFR 438.6(c)(2) for SDPs described in 42 CFR 438.6(c)(1). This letter pertains only to the actions identified above and does not apply to other actions currently under CMS's review. This letter does not constitute approval of any specific Medicaid financing mechanism used to support the non-federal share of expenditures associated with these actions. All relevant federal laws and regulations apply. CMS reserves its authority to enforce requirements in the Social Security Act and the applicable implementing regulations.

Based on CMS's preliminary determination, this SDP proposal likely qualifies for the temporary grandfathering period in section 71116(b) of the Working Families Tax Cut (WFTC) legislation (Public Law 119-21). CMS is preparing a notice of proposed rulemaking to revise 42 CFR part 438 as required under section 71116. CMS acknowledges that this determination is preliminary in nature and policies will be finalized as part of notice and comment rulemaking. CMS will enforce all federal requirements, including section 71116, and CMS's assessment may be revised if further information is identified that alters the initial assessment.

Until the phase down required by section 71116 begins, the total dollar amount of a grandfathered SDP (as specified in item 4 of the current SDP preprint form) cannot increase and a state cannot increase this total dollar amount under any change or revision to the grandfathered SDP, including an amendment to the SDP, or subsequent renewal SDP for a future rating period. For rating periods beginning on or after January 1, 2028, grandfathered SDPs must comply with the specified phase down requirements.

The state is required to submit contract action(s) and related capitation rates that include all SDPs, including those that do not require written prior approval as specified in 42 CFR 438.6(c)(2)(i). Additionally, all SDPs must be addressed in the applicable rate certifications. CMS recommends that states share this letter and the preprint(s) with the certifying actuary. Documentation of all SDPs must be included in the initial rate certification as outlined in Section I, Item 4, Subsection D, of the Medicaid Managed Care Rate Development Guide. The state and its actuary must ensure all documentation outlined in the Medicaid Managed Care Rate Development Guide is included in the initial rate certification. Failure to provide all required documentation in the rate certification will cause delays in CMS review.

Approval of this SDP proposal for the applicable rating period does not preclude CMS from requesting additional materials from the state, revision to the SDP proposal design, or any other modifications to the proposal for this rating period or future rating periods, if CMS determines that such modifications are required for the state to meet relevant federal requirements.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact StateDirectedPayment@cms.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

JOHN F. GILES JR -S

Digitally signed by JOHN F. GILES JR -S
Date: 2026.03.19 13:58:00 -04'00'

John Giles
Director, Managed Care Group
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services

Section 438.6(c) Preprint

42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c) provides States with the flexibility to implement delivery system and provider payment initiatives under MCO, PIHP, or PAHP Medicaid managed care contracts (i.e., state directed payments). 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(1) describes types of payment arrangements that States may use to direct expenditures under the managed care contract. Under 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(2)(ii), contract arrangements that direct an MCO's, PIHP's, or PAHP's expenditures under paragraphs (c)(1)(i) through (c)(1)(ii) and (c)(1)(iii)(B) through (D) must have written approval from CMS prior to implementation and before approval of the corresponding managed care contract(s) and rate certification(s). This preprint implements the prior approval process and must be completed, submitted, and approved by CMS before implementing any of the specific payment arrangements described in 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(1)(i) through (c)(1)(ii) and (c)(1)(iii)(B) through (D). Please note, per the 2020 Medicaid and CHIP final rule at 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(1)(iii)(A), States no longer need to submit a preprint for prior approval to adopt minimum fee schedules using State plan approved rates as defined in 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(a).

Submit all state directed payment preprints for prior approval to: StateDirectedPayment@cms.hhs.gov.

SECTION I: DATE AND TIMING INFORMATION

1. Identify the State's managed care contract rating period(s) for which this payment arrangement will apply (for example, July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021):
   February 1, 2025 - September 30, 2025
2. Identify the State's requested start date for this payment arrangement (for example, January 1, 2021). *Note, this should be the start of the contract rating period unless this payment arrangement will begin during the rating period.* February 1, 2025
3. Identify the managed care program(s) to which this payment arrangement will apply:
   Statewide Medicaid Managed Care Managed Medical Assistance, including CMS Plan
4. Identify the estimated **total dollar amount** (federal and non-federal dollars) of this state directed payment: $11,998,800
   a. Identify the estimated federal share of this state directed payment: $6,859,714
   b. Identify the estimated non-federal share of this state directed payment: $5,139,086

   Please note, the estimated total dollar amount and the estimated federal share should be described for the rating period in Question 1. If the State is seeking a multi-year approval (which is only an option for VBP/DSR payment arrangements (42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(1)(i)-(ii))), States should provide the estimates per rating period. For amendments, states should include the change from the total and federal share estimated in the previously approved preprint.

5. Is this the initial submission the State is seeking approval under 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c) for this state directed payment arrangement? ☐ Yes ☒ No

6. If this is not the initial submission for this state directed payment, please indicate if:

a. ☐ The State is seeking approval of an amendment to an already approved state directed payment.

b. ☒ The State is seeking approval for a renewal of a state directed payment for a new rating period.

i. If the State is seeking approval of a renewal, please indicate the rating periods for which previous approvals have been granted: 10/1/2023-9/30/2024

c. Please identify the types of changes in this state directed payment that differ from what was previously approved.

☐ Payment Type Change
☐ Provider Type Change
☐ Quality Metric(s) / Benchmark(s) Change
☒ Other; please describe:

The time period for the SDP is eight months rather than 12 because Florida implemented new contracts on February 1, 2025. The legislature increased the overall appropriation for this SDP to $18 million. The $18 million legislati

☐ No changes from previously approved preprint other than rating period(s).

7. ☒ Please use the checkbox to provide an assurance that, in accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(2)(ii)(F), the payment arrangement is not renewed automatically.

SECTION II: TYPE OF STATE DIRECTED PAYMENT

8. In accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(2)(ii)(A), describe in detail how the payment arrangement is based on the utilization and delivery of services for enrollees covered under the contract. The State should specifically discuss what must occur in order for the provider to receive the payment (e.g., utilization of services by managed care enrollees, meet or exceed a performance benchmark on provider quality metrics).

This is a renewal preprint that will provide funds to group practice pediatricians that have at least 50 locations and that are in certain value-based payment arrangements that are providing behavioral health services within the office and pediatric nursing facilities serving medically fragile children. The uniform dollar increase is calculated based on utilization for qualifying providers for services provided to health plan enrollees in the rating period February 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025. [Please note: This is an eight-month rating period because Florida implemented new Medicaid managed care contracts on February 1, 2025. As there is another rating period during 2024-25 (October 2024-January 2025), this rating period will be referred to in this preprint as RY2.]

The uniform dollar increase payments will be made based only on the utilization of eligible services at an eligible provider by Medicaid managed care plan enrollees covered under the Medicaid managed care contract for the RY2 period. Thus, consistent with the goals of the program, the eligible providers must provide access to care as measured by the actual delivery of services to managed care enrollees in order to receive the payment. After the end of the RY2, the Agency will pull RY2 utilization data for the eligible providers to determine the units of service provided. This will be used to calculate the uniform payment increase for each unit of service. The Agency will multiply the uniform rate increase by the number of units of actual utilization for each eligible provider to determine the provider payment. [Note: This iteration of the preprint, submitted in February 2026, has been revised to reflect actual RY2 utilization data.]

a. ☒ Please use the checkbox to provide an assurance that CMS has approved the federal authority for the Medicaid services linked to the services associated with the SDP (i.e., Medicaid State plan, 1115(a) demonstration, 1915(c) waiver, etc.).

b. Please also provide a link to, or submit a copy of, the authority document(s) with initial submissions and at any time the authority document(s) has been renewed/revised/updated.

Currently approved SMMC MMA 1115:
https://ahca.myflorida.com/content/download/26309/file/FL%20MMA%20STCs_January%202025%20Amendment%20Technical%20Correction.pdf

9. Please select the general type of state directed payment arrangement the State is seeking prior approval to implement. (Check all that apply and address the underlying questions for each category selected.)

a. ☐ **VALUE-BASED PAYMENTS / DELIVERY SYSTEM REFORM:** In accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(1)(i) and (ii), the State is requiring the MCO, PIHP, or PAHP to implement value-based purchasing models for provider reimbursement, such as alternative payment models (APMs), pay for performance arrangements, bundled payments, or other service payment models intended to recognize value or outcomes over volume of services; or the State is requiring the MCO, PIHP, or PAHP to participate in a multi-payer or Medicaid-specific delivery system reform or performance improvement initiative.

If checked, please answer all questions in Subsection IIA.

b. ☒ **FEE SCHEDULE REQUIREMENTS:** In accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(1)(iii)(B) through (D), the State is requiring the MCO, PIHP, or PAHP to adopt a minimum or maximum fee schedule for network providers that provide a particular service under the contract; or the State is requiring the MCO, PIHP, or PAHP to provide a uniform dollar or percentage increase for network providers that provide a particular service under the contract. **[Please note, per the 2020 Medicaid and CHIP final rule at 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(1)(iii)(A), States no longer need to submit a preprint for prior approval to adopt minimum fee schedules using State plan approved rates as defined in 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(a).]**

If checked, please answer all questions in Subsection IIB.

SUBSECTION IIA: VALUE-BASED PAYMENTS (VBP) / DELIVERY SYSTEM REFORM (DSR):

This section must be completed for all state directed payments that are VBP or DSR. This section does not need to be completed for state directed payments that are fee schedule requirements.

10. Please check the type of VBP/DSR State directed payment the State is seeking prior approval for. *Check all that apply; if none are checked, proceed to Section III.*

- ☐ Quality Payment/Pay for Performance (Category 2 APM, or similar)
- ☐ Bundled Payment/Episode-Based Payment (Category 3 APM, or similar)
- ☐ Population-Based Payment/Accountable Care Organization (Category 4 APM, or similar)
- ☐ Multi-Payer Delivery System Reform
- ☐ Medicaid-Specific Delivery System Reform
- ☐ Performance Improvement Initiative
- ☐ Other Value-Based Purchasing Model

11. Provide a brief summary or description of the required payment arrangement selected above and describe how the payment arrangement intends to recognize value or outcomes over volume of services. If "other" was checked above, identify the payment model. The State should specifically discuss what must occur in order for the provider to receive the payment (e.g., meet or exceed a performance benchmark on provider quality metrics).

12. In Table 1 below, identify the measure(s), baseline statistics, and targets that the State will tie to provider performance under this payment arrangement (provider performance measures). Please complete all boxes in the row. To the extent practicable, CMS encourages states to utilize existing, validated, and outcomes-based performance measures to evaluate the payment arrangement, and recommends States use the CMS Adult and Child Core Set Measures when applicable. If the state needs more space, please use Addendum Table 1.A and check this box: ☐

TABLE 1: Payment Arrangement Provider Performance Measures

Measure Name and NQF # (if applicable)	**Measure Steward/ Developer**[1]	**Baseline**[2] **Year**	**Baseline**[2] **Statistic**	**Performance Measurement Period**[3]	**Performance Target**	**Notes**[4]
Example: Percent of High-Risk Residents with Pressure Ulcers – Long Stay	*CMS*	*CY 2018*	*9.23%*	*Year 2*	*8%*	*Example notes*
a.						
b.						
c.						
d.						
e.						

1. Baseline data must be added after the first year of the payment arrangement
2. If state-developed, list State name for Steward/Developer.
3. If this is planned to be a multi-year payment arrangement, indicate which year(s) of the payment arrangement that performance on the measure will trigger payment.
4. If the State is using an established measure and will deviate from the measure steward's measure specifications, please describe here. Additionally, if a state-specific measure will be used, please define the numerator and denominator here.

13. For the measures listed in Table 1 above, please provide the following information:

a. Please describe the methodology used to set the performance targets for each measure.

b. If multiple provider performance measures are involved in the payment arrangement, discuss if the provider must meet the performance target on each measure to receive payment or can providers receive a portion of the payment if they meet the performance target on some but not all measures?

c. For state-developed measures, please briefly describe how the measure was developed?

14. Is the State seeking a multi-year approval of the state directed payment arrangement?
☐ Yes ☐ No

a. If this payment arrangement is designed to be a multi-year effort, denote the State's managed care contract rating period(s) the State is seeking approval for.

b. If this payment arrangement is designed to be a multi-year effort and the State is **NOT** requesting a multi-year approval, describe how this application's payment arrangement fits into the larger multi-year effort and identify which year of the effort is addressed in this application.

15. Use the checkboxes below to make the following assurances:

a. ☐ In accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(2)(iii)(A), the state directed payment arrangement makes participation in the value-based purchasing initiative, delivery system reform, or performance improvement initiative available, using the same terms of performance, to the class or classes of providers (identified below) providing services under the contract related to the reform or improvement initiative.

b. ☐ In accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(2)(iii)(B), the payment arrangement makes use of a common set of performance measures across all of the payers and providers.

c. ☐ In accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(2)(iii)(C), the payment arrangement does not set the amount or frequency of the expenditures.

d. ☐ In accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(2)(iii)(D), the payment arrangement does not allow the State to recoup any unspent funds allocated for these arrangements from the MCO, PIHP, or PAHP.

SUBSECTION IIB: STATE DIRECTED FEE SCHEDULES:
This section must be completed for all state directed payments that are fee schedule requirements. This section does not need to be completed for state directed payments that are VBP or DSR.

16. Please check the type of state directed payment for which the State is seeking prior approval. *Check all that apply; if none are checked, proceed to Section III.*

a. ☐ Minimum Fee Schedule for providers that provide a particular service under the contract *using rates other than State plan approved rates* [1] (42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(1)(iii)(B))

b. ☐ Maximum Fee Schedule (42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(1)(iii)(D))

c. ☒ Uniform Dollar or Percentage Increase (42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(1)(iii)(C))

[1] Please note, per the 2020 Medicaid and CHIP final rule at 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(1)(iii)(A), States no longer need to submit a preprint for prior approval to adopt minimum fee schedules that use State plan approved rates as defined in 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(a).

17. If the State is seeking prior approval of a fee schedule (options a or b in Question 16):

a. Check the basis for the fee schedule selected above.

i. ☐ The State is proposing to use a fee schedule based on the **State-plan approved rates** as defined in 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(a). [2]

ii. ☐ The State is proposing to use a fee schedule based on the **Medicare or Medicare-equivalent rate**.

iii. ☐ The State is proposing to use a fee schedule based on an **alternative fee schedule established by the State**.

1. If the State is proposing an alternative fee schedule, please describe the alternative fee schedule (e.g., 80% of Medicaid State-plan approved rate)

b. Explain how the state determined this fee schedule requirement to be reasonable and appropriate.

18. If using a maximum fee schedule (option b in Question 16), please answer the following additional questions:

a. ☐ Use the checkbox to provide the following assurance: In accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(1)(iii)(C), the State has determined that the MCO, PIHP, or PAHP has retained the ability to reasonably manage risk and has discretion in accomplishing the goals of the contract.

b. Describe the process for plans and providers to request an exemption if they are under contract obligations that result in the need to pay more than the maximum fee schedule.

c. Indicate the number of exemptions to the requirement:

i. Expected in this contract rating period (estimate)

ii. Granted in past years of this payment arrangement

d. Describe how such exemptions will be considered in rate development.

[2] Please note, per the 2020 Medicaid and CHIP final rule at 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(1)(iii)(A), States no longer need to submit a preprint for prior approval to adopt minimum fee schedules that use State plan approved rates as defined in 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(a).

19. If the State is seeking prior approval for a uniform dollar or percentage increase (option c in Question 16), please address the following questions:

a. Will the state require plans to pay a ☒ uniform dollar amount **or** a ☐ uniform percentage increase? (*Please select only one.*)

b. What is the magnitude of the increase (e.g., $4 per claim or 3% increase per claim?)

These uniform dollar amounts are $6.61 per unit for VBP pediatric practices and $20.55 per day for pediatric nursing facilities.

c. Describe how will the uniform increase be paid out by plans (e.g., upon processing the initial claim, a retroactive adjustment done one month after the end of quarter for those claims incurred during that quarter).

The Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) will use the following process to pay out the uniform increase:
Note: This process has been updated in the February 2026 version to reflect corrections and to show that actual RY2 24/25 data is being used.
1) Divide total estimated ACR payments by the total units to calculate an ACR average rate per unit.
2) Multiply the average rate per unit by the actual Medicaid units of service from eligible providers to create a payment ceiling for the providers.
3) Divide the fixed pool of appropriated dollars for the SDP by the actual Medicaid units of service to calculate the uniform dollar increase. If it is less than the ceiling, use this as the rate.
4) Aggregate the directed payments for all eligible providers to determine the payment amount that the health plans will receive to fund the directed payments.
5) Disburse the payments to the health plans and direct them to make the one-time payment to eligible providers.

d. Describe how the increase was developed, including why the increase is reasonable and appropriate for network providers that provide a particular service under the contract

Payment amounts will be calculated based on eligible provider utilization data corresponding to the provision of services to health plan enrollees covered under the contract during the period of February 1, 2025 - September 30, 2025. This utilization data will be used to directly link payment of the uniform dollar increase under the payment arrangement to the utilization of services provided by eligible providers to health plan enrollees.

SECTION III: PROVIDER CLASS AND ASSESSMENT OF REASONABLENESS

20. In accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(2)(ii)(B), identify the class or classes of providers that will participate in this payment arrangement by answering the following questions:

a. Please indicate which general class of providers would be affected by the state directed payment (check all that apply):

- ☐ inpatient hospital service
- ☐ outpatient hospital service
- ☐ professional services at an academic medical center
- ☒ primary care services
- ☐ specialty physician services
- ☒ nursing facility services
- ☐ HCBS/personal care services
- ☐ behavioral health inpatient services
- ☐ behavioral health outpatient services
- ☐ dental services
- ☐ Other:

b. Please define the provider class(es) (if further narrowed from the general classes indicated above).

Primary care services: Pediatrician group practices that have 50 or more locations and that are in a value-based payment arrangement with a Statewide Medicaid Managed Care health plan for 85% or greater risk for service revenue

Nursing facility services: Nursing facility services for children under age 21 who are determined to be medically fragile by the Children's Multidisciplinary Assessment Team

c. Provide a justification for the provider class defined in Question 20b (e.g., the provider class is defined in the State Plan.) If the provider class is defined in the State Plan, please provide a link to or attach the applicable State Plan pages to the preprint submission. Provider classes cannot be defined to only include providers that provide intergovernmental transfers.

The uniform dollar increase will direct expenditures to all providers within each class for providing the same service under the contract. However, the uniform dollar increase will be different for each provider class.

Pediatrician group practices: Defined as pediatrician group practices that have 50 or more locations and that are in a value-based payment arrangement with a Statewide Medicaid Managed Care health plan for 85% or greater risk for service revenue. Each provider group within this class will receive a uniform dollar increase of $6.61 above base payments for identified services provided to health plan enrollees. This uniform dollar increase is based on RY2 utilization for the eligible providers. The Agency has calculated the uniform dollar increase and will make payments based on RY2 utilization.

Pediatric nursing facilities serving medically fragile children: Defined as pediatric nursing facilities providing services to medically fragile children under age 21. Each provider within this class will receive a uniform dollar increase of $20.55 day above base payments for identified services provided to medically fragile children under age 21 enrolled in health plans. This uniform dollar increase is based on cost report utilization for the eligible providers. The Agency has calculated the uniform dollar increase and will make payments based on RY2 utilization.

21. In accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(2)(ii)(B), describe how the payment arrangement directs expenditures equally, using the same terms of performance, for the class or classes of providers (identified above) providing the service under the contract.

Payment amounts are calculated based on eligible provider utilization data for services provided from February 1, 2025 – September 30, 2025 to health plan enrollees covered under the contract. This utilization data will be used to directly link payment of the uniform dollar increase under the payment arrangement to the utilization of eligible services provided by eligible pediatricians and nursing facilities to health plan enrollees.

Consistent with 42 CFR 438.6(c)(1)(iii)(c), contracted Statewide Medicaid Managed Care plans will provide uniform dollar increases, depending upon provider class, to the base health plan payments made to the identified providers for services provided to Medicaid managed care enrollees. The uniform dollar increase will be set by eligible provider class.
The uniform dollar increase, depending upon provider class, will be set by the Agency and remain fixed for the rate year.

Upon calculating each eligible provider's directed payment, the Agency will aggregate the directed payments for all eligible providers to determine the payment amount that each health plan will receive to fund the directed payments. The Agency will direct the health plans to make the payments to their eligible providers upon receipt of the directed payment from the Agency.

22. For the services where payment is affected by the state directed payment, how will the state directed payment interact with the negotiated rate(s) between the plan and the provider? Will the state directed payment:

a. ☐ Replace the negotiated rate(s) between the plan(s) and provider(s).

b. ☐ Limit but not replace the negotiated rate(s) between the plans(s) and provider(s).

c. ☒ Require a payment be made in addition to the negotiated rate(s) between the plan(s) and provider(s).

23. For payment arrangements that are intended to require plans to make a payment in addition to the negotiated rates (as noted in option c in Question 22), please provide an analysis in Table 2 showing the impact of the state directed payment on payment levels for each provider class. This provider payment analysis should be completed distinctly for each service type (e.g., inpatient hospital services, outpatient hospital services, etc.).

This should include an estimate of the base reimbursement rate the managed care plans pay to these providers as a percent of Medicare, or some other standardized measure, and the effect the increase from the state directed payment will have on total payment. *Ex: The average base payment level from plans to providers is 80% of Medicare and this SDP is expected to increase the total payment level from 80% to 100% of Medicare.*

If the state needs more space, please use Addendum 2.A and check this box: ☐

TABLE 2: Provider Payment Analysis

Provider Class(es)	Average Base Payment Level from Plans to Providers (absent the SDP)	Effect on Total Payment Level of State Directed Payment (SDP)	Effect on Total Payment Level of Other SDPs	Effect on Total Payment Level of Pass-Through Payments (PTPs)	Total Payment Level (after accounting for all SDPs and PTPs
Ex: Rural Inpatient Hospital Services	*80%*	*20%*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*100%*
a. Pediatrician group practices	38.5%	17.9%	28.9%		85.2%
b. Pediatric nursing facilities serving medically fragile children	25.5%	1.1%	N/A		26.6%
c.					
d.					
e.					
f.					
g.					

24. Please indicate if the data provided in Table 2 above is in terms of a percentage of:

- **a.** ☐ Medicare payment/cost
- **b.** ☐ State-plan approved rates as defined in 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(a) *(Please note, this rate cannot include supplemental payments.)*
- **c.** ☒ Other; Please define: Average commercial rate for each provider category

25. Does the State also require plans to pay any other state directed payments for providers eligible for the provider class described in Question 20b? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please provide information requested under the column "Other State Directed Payments" in Table 2.

26. Does the State also require plans to pay pass-through payments as defined in 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(a) to any of the providers eligible for any of the provider class(es) described in Question 20b? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please provide information requested under the column "Pass-Through Payments" in Table 2.

27. Please describe the data sources and methodology used for the analysis provided in response to Question 23.

The payment amounts will be determined based on eligible provider utilization data. The allocation of funds across providers will be proportional within each provider class.

For qualifying pediatricians group practices, the average base payment level was calculated as a percentage of the average commercial rate. Services provided to health plan enrollees by eligible providers during the period February 1 through September 30, 2025 were used in this calculation.

For pediatric nursing facilities serving medically fragile children, the average base payment level was calculated compared to the average commercial rate for long-term care acute care facilities using cost reports for CY 2024.

The actual payments will be based on utilization data from RY2 as described in #19 and #20.

28. Please describe the State's process for determining how the proposed state directed payment was appropriate and reasonable.

The payments made under this preprint are designed to provide resources to eligible providers to help achieve targeted goals in the Agency's Comprehensive Quality Strategy.

The uniform dollar increase for pediatricians incentivizes group practices to more fully integrate behavioral health screening and monitoring into their practices to help prevent escalation of behavioral health conditions that could lead to preventable emergency department visits or hospitalizations. The Agency targeted group practices because larger practices would be more likely to receive a directed payment large enough to support changes in operations that would positively impact the quality outcome goals. The Agency targeted practices in value-based arrangements to further incentivize payment arrangements designed to improve health outcomes.

The uniform dollar increase for pediatric nursing facilities will provide resources to the state's three pediatric nursing facilities so that they can enhance supports and processes that will lead to shorter lengths of stay in pediatric nursing facilities, for example, additional supports to work with families on transition planning and training in hands on care.

The payment amounts will be determined based on eligible provider utilization data. The allocation of funds across providers will be proportional within each provider class based on utilization.

SECTION IV: INCORPORATION INTO MANAGED CARE CONTRACTS

29. States must adequately describe the contractual obligation for the state directed payment in the state's contract with the managed care plan(s) in accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c). Has the state already submitted all contract action(s) to implement this state directed payment? ☐ Yes ☒ No

a. If yes:

i. What is/are the state-assigned identifier(s) of the contract actions provided to CMS?

ii. Please indicate where (page or section) the state directed payment is captured in the contract action(s).

b. If no, please estimate when the state will be submitting the contract actions for review.

The contract actions are estimated to be submitted for review in September 2026.

SECTION V: INCORPORATION INTO THE ACTUARIAL RATE CERTIFICATION

Note: Provide responses to the questions below for the first rating period if seeking approval for multi-year approval.

30. Has/Have the actuarial rate certification(s) for the rating period for which this state directed payment applies been submitted to CMS? ☒ Yes ☐ No

a. If no, please estimate when the state will be submitting the actuarial rate certification(s) for review.

b. If yes, provide the following information in the table below for each of the actuarial rate certification review(s) that will include this state directed payment.

Table 3: Actuarial Rate Certification(s)

Control Name Provided by CMS (List each actuarial rate certification separately)	Date Submitted to CMS	Does the certification incorporate the SDP?	If so, indicate where the state directed payment is captured in the certification (page or section)
i. MCR-FL-MMA-20250201-20250930-CERTIFICATION-20250128	01/28/2025	No	
ii. MCR-FL-CMS-MMA-20250701-20250930-AMENDMENT-20250626	07/11/2025	No	
iii.			
iv.			
v.			

Please note, states and actuaries should consult the most recent Medicaid Managed Care Rate Development Guide for how to document state directed payments in actuarial rate certification(s). The actuary's certification must contain all of the information outlined; if all required documentation is not included, review of the certification will likely be delayed.)

c. If not currently captured in the State's actuarial certification submitted to CMS, note that the regulations at 42 C.F.R. § 438.7(b)(6) requires that all state directed payments are documented in the State's actuarial rate certification(s). CMS will not be able to approve the related contract action(s) until the rate certification(s) has/have been amended to account for all state directed payments. Please provide an estimate of when the State plans to submit an amendment to capture this information.

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31. Describe how the State will/has incorporated this state directed payment arrangement in the applicable actuarial rate certification(s) (please select one of the options below):

- **a.** ☐ An adjustment applied in the development of the monthly base capitation rates paid to plans.
- **b.** ☒ Separate payment term(s) which are captured in the applicable rate certification(s) but paid separately to the plans from the monthly base capitation rates paid to plans.
- **c.** ☐ Other, please describe:

32. States should incorporate state directed payment arrangements into actuarial rate certification(s) as an adjustment applied in the development of the monthly base capitation rates paid to plans as this approach is consistent with the rate development requirements described in 42 C.F.R. § 438.5 and consistent with the nature of risk-based managed care. For state directed payments that are incorporated in another manner, particularly through separate payment terms, provide additional justification as to why this is necessary and what precludes the state from incorporating as an adjustment applied in the development of the monthly base capitation rates paid to managed care plans.

The directed payment is incorporated through a separate payment term for administrative simplicity related to the validation of data from the health plans, as well as the timing of payments to health plans.

33. ☒ In accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(2)(i), the State assures that all expenditures for this payment arrangement under this section are developed in accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.4, the standards specified in 42 C.F.R. § 438.5, and generally accepted actuarial principles and practices.

SECTION VI: FUNDING FOR THE NON-FEDERAL SHARE

34. Describe the source of the non-federal share of the payment arrangement. Check all that apply:

- **a.** ☒ State general revenue
- **b.** ☐ Intergovernmental transfers (IGTs) from a State or local government entity
- **c.** ☐ Health Care-Related Provider tax(es) / assessment(s)
- **d.** ☐ Provider donation(s)
- **e.** ☐ Other, specify:

35. For any payment funded by **IGTs (option b in Question 34)**,

- **a.** Provide the following (respond to each column for all entities transferring funds). If the state needs more space, please use Addendum Table 4.A and check this box: ☐

Table 4: IGT Transferring Entities

Name of Entities transferring funds (enter each on a separate line)	Operational nature of the Transferring Entity (State, County, City, Other)	Total Amounts Transferred by This Entity	Does the Transferring Entity have General Taxing Authority? (Yes or No)	Did the Transferring Entity receive appropriations? If not, put N/A. If yes, identify the level of appropriations	Is the Transferring Entity eligible for payment under this state directed payment? (Yes or No)
i.					
ii.					
iii.					
iv.					
v.					
vi.					
vii.					
viii.					
ix.					
x.					

b. ☐ Use the checkbox to provide an assurance that no state directed payments made under this payment arrangement funded by IGTs are dependent on any agreement or arrangement for providers or related entities to donate money or services to a governmental entity.

c. Provide information or documentation regarding any written agreements that exist between the State and healthcare providers or amongst healthcare providers and/or related entities relating to the non-federal share of the payment arrangement. This should include any written agreements that may exist with healthcare providers to support and finance the non-federal share of the payment arrangement. Submit a copy of any written agreements described above.

36. For any state directed payments funded by **provider taxes/assessments (option c in Question 34)**,

a. Provide the following (respond to each column for all entries). If there are more entries than space in the table, please provide an attachment with the information requested in the table.

Table 5: Health Care-Related Provider Tax/Assessment(s)

Name of the Health Care-Related Provider Tax / Assessment (enter each on a separate line)	Identify the permissible class for this tax / assessment	Is the tax / assessment broad-based?	Is the tax / assessment uniform?	Is the tax / assessment under the 6% indirect hold harmless limit?	If not under the 6% indirect hold harmless limit, does it pass the "75/75" test?	Does it contain a hold harmless arrangement that guarantees to return all or any portion of the tax payment to the tax payer?
i.						
ii.						
iii.						
iv.						
v.						

b. If the state has any waiver(s) of the broad-based and/or uniform requirements for any of the health care-related provider taxes/assessments, list the waiver(s) and its current status:

Table 6: Health Care-Related Provider Tax/Assessment Waivers

Name of the Health Care-Related Provider Tax/Assessment Waiver (enter each on a separate line)	Submission Date	Current Status (Under Review, Approved)	Approval Date
i.			
ii.			
iii.			
iv.			
v.			

37. For any state directed payments funded by **provider donations (option d in Question 34)**, please answer the following questions:

a. Is the donation bona-fide? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b. Does it contain a hold harmless arrangement to return all or any part of the donation to the donating entity, a related entity, or other provider furnishing the same health care items or services as the donating entity within the class?
☐ Yes ☐ No

38. ☒ **For all state directed payment arrangements**, use the checkbox to provide an assurance that in accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(2)(ii)(E), the payment arrangement does not condition network provider participation on the network provider entering into or adhering to intergovernmental transfer agreements.

SECTION VII: QUALITY CRITERIA AND FRAMEWORK FOR ALL PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS

39. ☒ Use the checkbox below to make the following assurance, "In accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(2)(ii)(C), the State expects this payment arrangement to advance at least one of the goals and objectives in the quality strategy required per 42 C.F.R. § 438.340."

40. Consistent with 42 C.F.R. § 438.340(d), States must post the final quality strategy online beginning July 1, 2018. Please provide:

- **a.** A hyperlink to State's most recent quality strategy: https://ahca.myflorida.com/content/download/8651/file/Comprehensive_Quality_Strategy_Report.pdf
- **b.** The effective date of quality strategy. March 1, 2024

41. If the State is currently updating the quality strategy, please submit a draft version, and provide:

- **a.** A target date for submission of the revised quality strategy (month and year):
- **b.** Note any potential changes that might be made to the goals and objectives.

Note: The State should submit the final version to CMS as soon as it is finalized. To be in compliance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.340(c)(2) the quality strategy must be updated no less than once every 3-years.

42. To obtain written approval of this payment arrangement, a State must demonstrate that each state directed payment arrangement expects to advance at least one of the goals and objectives in the quality strategy. In the Table 7 below, identify the goal(s) and objective(s), as they appear in the Quality Strategy (include page numbers), this payment arrangement is expected to advance. If additional rows are required, please attach.

Table 7: Payment Arrangement Quality Strategy Goals and Objectives

Goal(s)	Objective(s)	Quality strategy page
Example: Improve care coordination for enrollees with behavioral health conditions	*Example: Increase the number of managed care patients receiving follow-up behavior health counseling by 15%*	*5*
a. Reduce potentially preventable hospital events: Health plans must develop and implement quality improvement initiatives aimed at reducing potentially preventable hospital admissions, readmissions, and emergency visits. Ensuring access to services is an important tool in reducing PPEs. Increasing children's access to mental health screening and follow up planning can reduce crisis level events	Increase the percentage of children ages 12 to 17 who receive screening for depression and follow-up planning by 1 percentage point	5
b. Reduce potentially preventable hospital events: Health plans must develop and implement quality improvement initiatives aimed at reducing potentially preventable hospital admissions, readmissions, and emergency department visits. Hospital admissions can be prevented with adequate patient monitoring, medication management, and follow-up care according to accepted standards of care. High rates of emergency department visits may indicate a lack of member education, adequate access, monitoring, or coordination of ambulatory care.	Increase the percentage of children who receive Follow Up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medication -- Initiation Phase by 1 percentage point	5
c. Long-term care transitions to home and community-based settings. Increase the percentage of enrollees receiving long-term care services in the home and community as opposed to in a nursing facility.	Decrease the average annual length of stay for children under age 21 in pediatric nursing facilities by 2 days	9
d.		

43. Describe how this payment arrangement is expected to advance the goal(s) and objective(s) identified in Table 7. If this is part of a multi-year effort, describe this both in terms of this year's payment arrangement and in terms of that of the multi-year payment arrangement.

This payment arrangement will advance goals a and b by providing additional resources to pediatrician group practices that are in significant risk-bearing arrangements to allow them to add behavioral health resources and standardized preventing screenings to their practices. This will improve early identification of depression in adolescents and ensure that follow up planning is conducted before the symptoms become more severe. It will also help the practices institute more comprehensive education of parents about the need for consistent follow up care if their child is taking ADHD medication and to set up a system for ensuring follow up appointments. These also align with the goal of reducing potentially preventable hospital admissions and readmissions. Since these offices are generally at risk for hospitalizations, this allows them to invest in prevention, early intervention, and high quality follow up care.

The payment arrangement will advance goal c by providing additional resources to the state's three pediatric nursing facilities to enhance their care coordination and facilitate transitions of pediatric patients to the family home or other community-based setting.

44. Please complete the following questions regarding having an evaluation plan to measure the degree to which the payment arrangement advances at least one of the goals and objectives of the State's quality strategy. To the extent practicable, CMS encourages States to utilize existing, validated, and outcomes-based performance measures to evaluate the payment arrangement, and recommends States use the CMS Adult and Child Core Set Measures, when applicable.

a. ☒ In accordance with 42 C.F.R. § 438.6(c)(2)(ii)(D), use the checkbox to assure the State has an evaluation plan which measures the degree to which the payment arrangement advances at least one of the goals and objectives in the quality strategy required per 42 C.F.R. § 438.340, and that the evaluation conducted will be *specific* to this payment arrangement. *Note:* States have flexibility in how the evaluation is conducted and may leverage existing resources, such as their 1115 demonstration evaluation if this payment arrangement is tied to an 1115 demonstration or their External Quality Review validation activities, as long as those evaluation or validation activities are *specific* to this payment arrangement and its impacts on health care quality and outcomes.

b. Describe how and when the State will review progress on the advancement of the State's goal(s) and objective(s) in the quality strategy identified in Question 42. For each measure the State intends to use in the evaluation of this payment arrangement, provide in Table 8 below: 1) the baseline year, 2) the baseline statistics, and 3) the performance targets the State will use to track the impact of this payment arrangement on the State's goals and objectives. Please attach the State's evaluation plan for this payment arrangement.

TABLE 8: Evaluation Measures, Baseline and Performance Targets

Measure Name and NQF # (if applicable)	**Baseline Year**	**Baseline Statistic**	**Performance Target**	**Notes**[1]
Example: Flu Vaccinations for Adults Ages 19 to 64 (FVA-AD); NQF # 0039	*CY 2019*	*34%*	*Increase the percentage of adults 18–64 years of age who report receiving an influenza vaccination by 1 percentage point per year*	*Example notes*
i. Screening for Depression and Follow-Up Plan: Ages 12 to 17 (CDF-CH)	CY 2022	7.42%	Increase the percentage of children ages 12 to 17 who receive screening for depression and follow-up planning by 1 percentage point	NCQA; Child Core Set Measure
ii. Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medication - Initiation (ADD-CH-I)	CY 2022	47.12%	Increase the percentage of children who receive Follow Up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medication -- Initiation Phase by 1 percentage point	NCQA; Child Core Set Measure
iii. Average length of stay for children under age 21 in pediatric nursing facilities	SFY 2022-23	219.9 days	Decrease the average annual length of stay for children under age 21 in pediatric nursing facilities by 2 days	State-defined measure: This is measured on a state fiscal year basis. Numerator is the sum of all nursing facility days for children under age 21 in the three pediatric NFs. Denominator is all children under age 21 who had a claim or encounter for nursing facility services in one of three pediatric NFs.
iv.				

1. If the State will deviate from the measure specification, please describe here. If a State-specific measure will be used, please define the numerator and denominator here. Additionally, describe any planned data or measure stratifications (for example, age, race, or ethnicity) that will be used to evaluate the payment arrangement.

c. If this is any year other than year 1 of a multi-year effort, describe (or attach) prior year(s) evaluation findings and the payment arrangement's impact on the goal(s) and objective(s) in the State's quality strategy. Evaluation findings must include 1) historical data; 2) prior year(s) results data; 3) a description of the evaluation methodology; and 4) baseline and performance target information from the prior year(s) preprint(s) where applicable. If full evaluation findings from prior year(s) are not available, provide partial year(s) findings and an anticipated date for when CMS may expect to receive the full evaluation findings.

Evaluation Plan for Year 2

Screening for Depression and Follow-Up Plan: Ages 12 to 17 (CDF-CH): The Agency for Health Care Administration's contract with its managed care plans requires plans to report this measure for the calendar year by the following July 1. Once all data are reported, the Agency will calculate a statewide total for the calendar year and compare to the baseline year data.

Follow-Up Care for Children Prescribed ADHD Medication - Initiation (ADD-CH-I): The Agency for Health Care Administration's contract with its managed care plans requires plans to report this measure for the calendar year by the following July 1. Once all data are reported, the Agency will calculate a statewide total for the calendar year and compare to the baseline year data.

Average length of stay for children under age 21 in pediatric nursing facilities: The Agency for Health Care Administration will calculate the average length of stay for the calendar year based on claims and encounter data in the Medicaid Management Information System at the time that it calculates the two measures above.

The state directed payment is requested to be effective February 1, 2025, however, payments will not be issued until early 2026, so the second year of evaluation data will be Calendar Year 2026 for behavioral health measures and the pediatric nursing facility measure.