

1 AN ACT concerning public aid.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The State Finance Act is amended by changing
5 Section 5.945 as follows:

6 (30 ILCS 105/5.945)

7 Sec. 5.945. The Medicaid Technical Assistance Center Fund.
8 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in addition to any
9 other transfers that may be provided by law, on July 1, 2026,
10 or as soon thereafter as practical, the State Comptroller
11 shall direct, and the State Treasurer shall transfer the
12 remaining balance from the Medicaid Technical Assistance
13 Center Fund into the Healthcare Provider Relief Fund. Upon
14 completion of the transfers, the Medicaid Technical Assistance
15 Center Fund is dissolved, and any future deposits due to that
16 Fund and any outstanding obligations or liabilities of that
17 Fund pass to the Healthcare Provider Relief Fund.

18 (Source: P.A. 102-4, Article 185, Section 185-90, eff.
19 4-27-21; 102-813, eff. 5-13-22.)

20 Section 10. The Medicaid Technical Assistance Act is
21 amended by changing Sections 185-5 and 185-15 as follows:

1 (305 ILCS 75/185-5)

2 Sec. 185-5. Definitions. As used in this Act:

3 "Behavioral health providers" includes providers of mental
4 health, substance use disorder, developmental disabilities,
5 and autism services for purposes of this Act, but does not
6 change any other legal, programmatic, diagnostic, or clinical
7 provisions defining or relating to coverage of such services.
8 ~~means mental health and substance use disorder providers.~~

9 "Department" means the Department of Healthcare and Family
10 Services.

11 "Health care providers" means individuals and
12 organizations who provide physical, mental, substance use
13 disorder, or services supporting social determinants
14 ~~determinant~~ of health ~~services~~.

15 "Health equity" means providing care that does not vary in
16 quality because of personal characteristics such as gender,
17 ethnicity, geographic location, and socioeconomic status.

18 ~~"Network adequacy" means a Medicaid beneficiaries' ability~~
19 ~~to access all necessary provider types within time and~~
20 ~~distance standards as defined in the Managed Care Organization~~
21 ~~model contract.~~

22 "Service deserts" means geographic areas of the State with
23 no or limited Medicaid providers that accept Medicaid.

24 "Social determinants of health" means any conditions that
25 impact an individual's health, including, but not limited to,
26 access to healthy food, safety, education, and housing

1 stability.

2 "Stakeholders" means, but are not limited to, health care
3 providers, advocacy organizations, managed care organizations,
4 Medicaid beneficiaries, and State and city partners.

5 (Source: P.A. 102-4, eff. 4-27-21.)

6 (305 ILCS 75/185-15)

7 Sec. 185-15. Collaboration. The Medicaid Technical
8 Assistance Center shall collaborate with public and private
9 partners throughout the State to identify, establish, and
10 maintain best practices necessary for health providers to
11 ensure their capacity to participate in the Illinois Medical
12 Assistance Program. The Medicaid Technical Assistance Center
13 shall promote equitable delivery systems, remaining committed
14 to the principle that all Medicaid recipients have accessible
15 and equitable physical and mental health care services
16 ~~HealthChoice Illinois or YouthCare~~. The Medicaid Technical
17 Assistance Center shall administer the following:

18 (1) Outreach and engagement: The Medicaid Technical
19 Assistance Center shall undertake efforts to identify and
20 engage community-based providers offering services to
21 customers funded by the Department, including, but not
22 limited to, behavioral health services and ~~or~~ services
23 addressing the social determinants of health, especially
24 those predominantly serving communities of color or those
25 operating within or near service deserts, for the purpose

1 of offering training and technical assistance to them
2 through the Medicaid Technical Assistance Center. Outreach
3 and engagement services may be subcontracted.

4 (2) Trainings: The Medicaid Technical Assistance
5 Center shall create and administer ongoing trainings for
6 health care providers. Trainings may be subcontracted. The
7 Medicaid Technical Assistance Center shall provide
8 in-person and web-based trainings. In-person training
9 shall be conducted throughout the State. All trainings
10 must be free of charge. The Medicaid Technical Assistance
11 Center shall administer post-training surveys and
12 incorporate feedback. Training content and delivery must
13 be reflective of Illinois providers' varying levels of
14 readiness, resources, and client populations.

15 (3) Web-based resources: The Medicaid Technical
16 Assistance Center shall maintain an independent, easy to
17 navigate, and up-to-date website that includes, but is not
18 limited to: recorded training archives, a training
19 calendar, provider resources and tools, up-to-date
20 explanations of Department and managed care organization
21 guidance, a running database of frequently asked questions
22 and contact information for key staff members of the
23 Department, managed care organizations, and the Medicaid
24 Technical Assistance Center.

25 (4) Learning collaboratives: The Medicaid Technical
26 Assistance Center shall host regional learning

1 collaboratives that will supplement the Medicaid Technical
2 Assistance Center training curriculum to bring together
3 groups of stakeholders to share issues and best practices,
4 and to escalate issues. Leadership of the Department and
5 managed care organizations shall attend learning
6 collaboratives on a quarterly basis.

7 (5) Network recruitment plan: Using reports and data
8 provided by the Department's External Quality Review
9 Organization on adequacy reports: The Medicaid Technical
10 Assistance Center shall publicly release a report on
11 Medicaid provider network adequacy, within the first 3
12 years of implementation and annually thereafter. The
13 reports shall identify provider service deserts, and
14 health care disparities by race and ethnicity, the
15 Medicaid Technical Assistance Center shall propose for
16 Department review and approval an annual plan for
17 recruiting providers to participate in the Illinois
18 Medical Assistance Program and report on outcomes of its
19 recruitment efforts to the Department for continuous
20 improvement. Recruitment plans shall prioritize efforts to
21 bolster access in provider service deserts and in
22 communities experiencing health care disparities by race
23 and ethnicity, with a special focus on behavioral health
24 services and services that address social determinants of
25 health.

26 (6) Equitable delivery system: The Medicaid Technical

1 Assistance Center is committed to the principle that all
2 Medicaid recipients have accessible and equitable physical
3 and mental health care services. All providers served
4 through the Medicaid Technical Assistance Center shall
5 deliver services notwithstanding the patient's race,
6 color, gender, gender identity, age, ancestry, marital
7 status, military status, religion, national origin,
8 disability status, sexual orientation, order of protection
9 status, as defined under Section 1-103 of the Illinois
10 Human Rights Act, or immigration status.

11 (Source: P.A. 102-4, eff. 4-27-21.)

12 (305 ILCS 75/185-20 rep.)

13 (305 ILCS 75/185-25 rep.)

14 Section 15. The Medicaid Technical Assistance Act is
15 amended by repealing Sections 185-20 and 185-25.

16 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,
17 2026.