

Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island (“BCBSRI”) has submitted its annual rate filing for the individual market. This document gives an overview of that filing.

**Scope and Range of the Rate Increase:**

BCBSRI has calculated the weighted average rate increase for BCBSRI plans, before reflecting changes due to age, as 28.9%.

The range of rate increases for BCBSRI plans, before reflecting changes due to age, which consumers will experience is: 24.8% to 30.7%.

The actual increase for an individual now enrolled will vary based upon:

- the age of each person enrolled;
- the plan chosen; and
- if the person is eligible for federal subsidies.

This filing impacts about 18,172 individuals now enrolled with BCBSRI and new customers joining after January 1, 2026. These individuals are enrolled either:

- directly with BCBSRI; or
- through Rhode Island’s health insurance marketplace (HealthSource RI).

The rate increase will take effect January 1, 2026. Rates will stay in effect until December 31, 2026.

**Key Drivers for this Filing:**

The rate increase for 2026 is due in large part to the continuing increase in the total cost of health care in Rhode Island.

Significant inflation in the cost of goods and services in all sectors of the economy has had a profound impact on the cost of medical services, and BCBSRI expects to see substantial increases in provider unit costs for 2026. Specialty drug treatments also account for a large part of the increase in medical costs. Additionally, increases in how often and how much health care is received are driving an increase in rates for 2026.

The end of enhanced premium tax credits in 2025 is contributing to large rate increases for 2026. Members that receive these tax credits will see significant increases in their premium costs, and this may cause disruption in the marketplace. Additionally, required increases in primary care provider payments are contributing to the rate increase.

Administrative costs factor into this filing as well. These include state and federal taxes, such as the state premium tax, and a state fee used to fund HealthSource RI. The state fee used to fund HealthSource RI adds 1.6% to the rate.

This filing reflects a projected medical loss ratio (“MLR”) of 86.3% using the federal formula. The MLR is the percent of each premium dollar that we spend to pay for healthcare services and activities that improve the quality of care of our members. The federal government requires an MLR of 80% or higher in the individual market.

**Changes in Benefits:**

At the same time as this filing, BCBSRI submitted our 2026 health plans to the Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner for approval. The plan filing includes benefit changes consistent with state and federal regulations, including changes to:

- cost sharing amounts; and
- annual out of pocket maximums.

These benefit changes will take effect on January 1, 2026.