



## NARRATIVE SUMMARY

### **Community-Rated Individual Commercial Comprehensive Premium Rate Filings Plan Year 2022**

Healthfirst PHSP, Inc. (Healthfirst) has submitted to the New York Department of Financial Services (DFS) an application to adjust premium rates for direct pay individual market health insurance coverage effective in 2022. Healthfirst has requested an increase in premium rates for plans offered in 2022 in New York City and Long Island. The Department of Financial Services is reviewing Healthfirst's requested premium rate increase and will determine if the rates are appropriate based on the available evidence.

The requested rate adjustments will affect all currently enrolled individual market subscribers renewing coverage for the 2022 calendar year as well as new individual policies issued during the 2022 calendar year. Final rate adjustments approved by DFS will be effective January 1, 2022. The rates are guaranteed for a 12-month period ending December 31, 2022 and are subject to New York's community rating and guarantee issue laws. Subscribers' rates will vary according to the benefit plan in which they enroll, as well as the census/family tier they select.

As of the date of the submission of this Narrative Summary, approximately 31,200 covered lives (i.e., subscribers and their covered dependents) are estimated to be affected by the rate adjustment.

#### **A Description of Your Premium Rate**

Your health insurance premium rate has two main components. One is the costs of paying for medical care and the other is Healthfirst's administrative costs.

1. **Medical care costs.** The largest portion of your health insurance premium rate goes toward paying for the costs of the medical claims submitted by you and other members enrolled in Healthfirst's individual market plans. Under New York law, at least 82 percent of the premium Healthfirst's members pay must be put toward paying for the costs of medical claims. More than 82 percent of Healthfirst's premium dollars is used for paying medical expenses.
2. **Administrative costs.** Administrative expenses include a wide range of services and functions, such as processing claims and upgrading technology to keep pace with the rapidly changing health care sector. It also accounts for an array of member-centric expenses such as conducting medical necessity reviews, managing members' complex and chronic conditions, maintaining a robust provider network, and partnering with the community on health education initiatives.

Healthfirst takes a meaningful and evidence-based approach to determining how much of a rate adjustment to request from DFS.

## Your Rate Adjustment Explained

Healthfirst is applying for a rate adjustment to account for marketplace trends and to reflect actual and anticipated claims costs. While several market forces continue to drive health care costs higher more generally, Healthfirst continues to strengthen the effectiveness of its care management and quality improvement programs and robust network.

Healthfirst is requesting a higher rate for 2022 because several market forces continue to drive health care costs higher. These forces include:

- Cost increases for inpatient hospital, outpatient hospital, and physician services
- Cost increases for prescription drugs, including the increased use of expensive specialty prescriptions.

Currently the premium rates for Long Island are the same as the rates for New York City (NYC). The overall average rate increase is 34.4%.

Healthfirst is requesting rate changes by benefit plan, for both New York City and Long Island, which are summarized in the table below.

| <b>Plan Name</b>  | <b>Requested Increase</b>        |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Healthfirst Platinum Leaf<br>&<br>Healthfirst Platinum Leaf Premier | NYC: 35.4%<br>Long Island: 30.8% |
| Healthfirst Gold Leaf<br>&<br>Healthfirst Gold Leaf Premier         | NYC: 35.4%<br>Long Island: 30.8% |
| Healthfirst Silver Leaf<br>&<br>Healthfirst Silver Leaf Premier     | NYC: 35.4%<br>Long Island: 30.8% |
| Healthfirst Bronze Leaf<br>&<br>Healthfirst Bronze Leaf Premier     | NYC: 35.4%<br>Long Island: 30.8% |
| Healthfirst Green Leaf  | NYC: 35.4%<br>Long Island: 30.8% |

## New Plans Offered In 2022

Healthfirst will offer the following new plans in 2022:

- Healthfirst Gold Leaf Premier Plus
- Healthfirst Silver Leaf Premier Plus

**Final Rate Adjustment**

The final rate adjustment that Healthfirst members experience may differ than what DFS eventually approves. Healthfirst will notify its currently enrolled members approximately 60 days prior to the new rate taking effect.