



**COLORADO**  
Department of Health Care  
Policy & Financing

303 E. 17th Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

# FAQ: Health Related Social Needs (HRSN) 1115 Amendment Request

July 2024

## Overview of the Health Related Social Needs Amendment and Policy

### What is the HRSN amendment?

Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) is pursuing an amendment to Colorado's existing [1115 Substance Use Disorder \(SUD\) Demonstration Waiver](#) to expand Medicaid coverage of Health Related Social Needs (HRSN) services for targeted populations with a focus on housing and nutrition supports (Amendment 2). Following the amendment submission, HCPF will continue to work with community partners to gather input and recommendations to ensure a successful program and determine if there are additional populations of benefits that could be added in future policy.

This proposal is in addition to the [1115 SUD Demonstration Amendment Request](#) (Amendment 1) submitted to the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare (CMS) on April 1, 2024. The first amendment, pending with CMS, includes continuous coverage for priority populations (youth 0-3 years and incarceration post-release), expanded coverage for inpatient mental health treatment length of stay, and providing pre-release support services in prisons, and youth detention facilities and jails.

### What is involved in the amendment request process?

- HCPF hosted three stakeholder meetings in May 2024, for attendees to learn more about the proposed HRSN 1115 waiver amendment, ask questions and offer feedback on the proposed service set and population, and learn about timelines and ways to be involved. The meeting slides and recordings are posted on the [website](#).
- HCPF posted the HRSN 1115 waiver amendment draft for public comment on June 10, 2024 through July 10, 2024.
- HCPF hosted two public hearings, with both in person and virtual options. HCPF held an in person tribal consultation. These forums provided an opportunity for stakeholders to offer comments and feedback on the publicly posted amendment.
- By August 2024, the state will complete a standard application that defines the population and scope of services to be covered.
- By closely following the population and service scope [outlined by CMS](#), Colorado increases the likelihood of amendment approval.
- Upon approval of the amendment, HCPF will write the state's implementation plan over an approximately 6-month period starting winter 2024/2025, with an anticipated implementation date of July 2025.
- This plan will be created in collaboration with other state agency partners for submission to CMS, and define factors related to operationalizing these services.

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## What benefits and populations are included in the HRSN amendment?

HRSN Demonstration Eligible Populations	
Individuals Eligible for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Vouchers	Individuals with a disabling condition who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness
Individuals eligible for Colorado Fostering Success (CFS)Vouchers	Young adults ages 18 through 26 who left foster care on or after their 18th birthday
Individuals Eligible for Community Access Team (CAT) Vouchers	Individuals moving from a nursing facility, intermediate care facility, or regional center to a community setting using a Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver, or who are at risk of nursing facility admission

Proposed Housing Services
Pre-tenancy and housing transition navigation services
Rent/temporary housing for up to six months including utility costs that are a part of the housing
One-time transition and moving costs
Tenancy sustaining services

Proposed Nutrition Services
Nutrition counseling and instruction, tailored to health risk, nutrition-sensitive health conditions, and/or demonstrated outcome improvement
Medically tailored, home delivered meals tailored to health risk and eligibility criteria, and/or certain nutrition-sensitive health conditions, for up to six months.
Home-delivered meals or pantry stocking

**For more information contact**

[hcpf\\_1115waiver@state.co.us](mailto:hcpf_1115waiver@state.co.us)

**Learn more**

[Expanding the Substance Use Disorder \(SUD\) Continuum of Care Waiver](#)

[Addressing the Health-Related Social Needs \(HRSN\) of Health First Colorado and CHP+ Members](#)

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