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Policy & Financing

# House Bill 23-1300 Feasibility Study: Health-Related Social Needs Event

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June 24, 2025

## About the Event

The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) held a stakeholder meeting on June 24, 2025, to provide updates on [House Bill 23-1300 \(HB23-1300\)](#). The bill directs HCPF to assess the feasibility of expanding continuous eligibility and services that address health-related social needs (HRSNs) for certain populations. In this meeting, stakeholders provided input on high-impact services to address housing and extreme weather-related HRSNs, identified priority populations for these services, and shared potential barriers to implementing these services. HCPF hosted this meeting, in partnership with the Colorado Health Institute (CHI), with 82 attendees and 123 registered. Approximately half of attendees responded to a poll question using Mentimeter, an online polling tool, to share their background or experience:

### What is the background or experience that you bring to today's discussion? (N = 48)

- Health First Colorado member: 2 respondents
- Health care provider: 5
- Direct service provider: 7
- Advocate: 8
- Subject matter expert on housing or extreme weather: 12
- Other: 14

## Meeting Materials

- Recording in English
- Recording in Spanish
- Presentation slides

## Introduction and Background

CHI staff opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and reviewing meeting logistics. HCPF staff then shared background information regarding HCPF's role in addressing HRSNs.

- **Defining Health-Related Social Needs:** HCPF staff defined HRSNs as non-medical factors that influence a person's health and well-being. These factors include things such as affordable and safe housing, nutritious and available food, consistent utilities, and services that address or prevent violence and discrimination, and improve health care availability.



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- **HCPF's Role in Addressing HRSNs:** HCPF staff shared that state Medicaid programs have addressed HRSNs by paying for services, providing case management, and investing in infrastructure. HCPF has initiatives across multiple domains to address the HRSNs of Colorado's Medicaid program members. This includes the following efforts:
  - HCPF has existing services for qualifying Health First Colorado members. For members who qualify for a Home and Community-Based Service (HCBS) waiver, there are services available to address housing and nutrition needs as well as services specific to transitions. Some members also qualify for housing support services and peer services through the behavioral health benefit.
  - Colorado is also in the process of implementing HRSN services approved through an 1115 Waiver Amendment. These services include housing-related services such as case management, pre-tenancy navigation, transition and moving costs, rental assistance, nutrition counseling and education, medically tailored meals, and pantry stocking or home-delivered meals.. These services are available to people eligible for housing vouchers, and will be phased in beginning July 1, 2025, starting with housing services.
- **House Bill 23-1300 Feasibility Study:** CHI staff explained that HB23-1300 directs HCPF to study the feasibility of expanding continuous eligibility of specific populations and HRSN service expansions or additions.
  - HCPF will publish the study publicly in January 2026. This study may inform implementation of some of these services at a later date.
  - CHI is reviewing services related to housing, extreme weather, nutrition, interpersonal violence, and social and community support.

## Discussion Summary

Forty-eight attendees participated in Mentimeter polling to share their feedback and input on HRSN services related to housing and extreme weather. Attendees were also encouraged to share their feedback through Zoom chat and through verbal comments or questions.

### Discussion Session 1: Housing Services

First, attendees provided feedback on housing services. They were encouraged to focus on services that support members' safety, health, and well-being by ensuring they have a stable home in which to manage their physical, emotional, and mental health.

#### Q1: Which of these housing services have the highest impact?

Attendees prioritized the following services in order of highest to lowest impact:

- Financial assistance (rent, security deposits, application fees, utility payments): 27 votes
- Permanent supportive housing: 24



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- Pre-tenancy and tenancy-sustaining services (eviction prevention and tenant rights education): 20
- Short-term housing: 18
- Short-term rental without clinical intervention (respite services): 18
- Temporary housing: 17
- Social support (case management services, housing navigation, peer support services, skill building): 13
- On-site health care: 9
- Household goods and furniture: 7
- Relocation expenses or movers: 5
- Home accessibility and safety modifications: 5
- Pest eradication: 1

### ***Additional Feedback***

- Attendees agreed that permanent supportive housing is a highly effective intervention for people experiencing homelessness because it combines housing with services and may mitigate the need for additional services if resourced adequately.
- Other attendees said that additional services are often needed such as pre-tenancy, short-term housing, and pre-tenancy supports, particularly while people are waiting for other longer-term services to become available.

### **Q2: What additional housing services should be considered?**

All additional services that do not fall into the categories previously shared are listed below. Those mentioned multiple times are followed by their total.

- Hospice (end-of-life respite care): 3 responses
- Medical group homes: 2 responses
- Therapeutic services (e.g. group therapy, recovery services, therapy for hoarding behaviors)
- Addressing unsafe environmental factors like mold, lead, etc.
- Matching people who are unhoused with “live-in caregivers”
- Resource assistance:
  - Housing navigation support
  - Financial counseling and employment support
  - Daily living activity services
  - Child welfare involvement supports
  - Health care navigation
  - Wraparound and coordination with social, transportation, and nutrition services
- Prenatal and early childhood supports:
  - Child care
  - Universal home visiting for prenatal up to age 3 with housing



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### Q3: What populations need these types of housing services the most?

Respondents discussed which populations should be considered for access to housing-related services:

- People experiencing homelessness with specific focus on:
  - People at risk of homelessness
  - [Chronically homeless](#) individuals and families
  - Aging and older adults
- Pregnant people
- People with intellectual or developmental disabilities
- People with executive function disorders
- People who have qualified for Permanent Supportive Housing vouchers but are currently in affordable housing
- Low-income households
- Families, children, and prenatal adults
- Survivors of trauma, trafficking, or violence
- People transitioning out of services

#### *Additional Feedback*

- One attendee noted that while services are available to the most vulnerable members in a community, a broader population also needs to be included with regard to specific services like pre-tenancy and tenancy supports.
- One attendee emphasized the importance of stable housing during the prenatal through age 3 period.

### Discussion Session 2: Extreme Weather

Next, attendees discussed services related to extreme weather, which refers to both natural disasters as well as extreme weather events like heat waves and cold snaps. Attendees were asked to think about services that could help maintain or improve health during an extreme weather event.

### Q4: Which of these extreme weather services have the highest impact?

- Attendees prioritized portable power supply (20), air conditioners (18), and refrigeration units (13) as high-impact services, and were less likely to prioritize air filtration devices (4).

### Q5: What additional extreme weather services should be considered?

Additional services that do not fall into the categories previously shared are listed below:

- Medical equipment:
  - Portable oxygen tanks
  - Medical alert devices
- Items to maintain access to basic needs:
  - Portable generator



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- Clean water or a means to filter water
- Places to charge medical devices and wheelchairs
- Heating devices:
  - Tent-safe heating devices
  - Heaters to prevent people from using their oven to heat their unit
- Community supports:
  - County-based weatherization programs
  - Notification and coordination on local safe sites for replenishing energy in backup power units
  - Emergency shelters that allow pets and families
- Housing services:
  - Use of utility programs such as the Colorado Low-Income Energy Assistance Program
  - Short term/transitional housing if relocation is needed due to extreme weather
  - Transportation

### ***Additional Feedback***

- There are ongoing efforts to provide back-up power units as part of wildfire mitigation plans.

### **Q6: What populations need these types of extreme weather services the most?**

Respondents discussed which populations should be considered for access to housing-related services. Those mentioned multiple times are followed by their total.

- Older adults and seniors: 4 responses
- Pregnant people: 2 responses
- Families with young children
- People with intellectual or developmental disabilities, traumatic brain injuries, or strokes
- Homebound or mobility-challenged people
- People taking medications that reduce heat tolerance
- Veterans who do not access federal programs
- People with respiratory issues, including long COVID
- Mixed immigration status families
- Low-income individuals and families

### **Q7: What are barriers to accessing these services?**

CHI closed the discussion by asking about potential barriers to accessing these services. Responses included the following:

- ADA accessibility
- Ease of access, including wait times or hours of operation
- Awareness of availability, clear messaging, and trauma-informed communication
- Cultural responsiveness and language access
- Systemic barriers like transportation and housing instability



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### Question and Answer

Attendees asked questions on various topics throughout the meeting. Those questions and responses are provided below, based on the information that was current and available as of June 24, 2025, when the meeting was held. Some language has been adjusted for clarity.

#### Topic: 1115 Waiver Amendment

- Question: Are there any concerns regarding the federal discussions on Medicaid cuts potentially impacting the 1115 waiver?
  - HCPF Response: HCPF is closely following the federal discussions at this time, including any impacts on waivers. We currently have approval to move forward with initiatives already included in the [1115 waiver](#), and will continue to monitor the situation publishing updates on the [Understanding Federal Impacts hub](#) and in our [Legislator Resource Center](#).
- Question: Will services through the waiver apply to people receiving Medicaid via the Cover all Coloradans policy?
  - HCPF Response: As long as a Medicaid member meets the eligibility requirements for the specific waiver component, they will be able to receive those waiver services. This includes those who are eligible through the Cover all Coloradan policy.
- Question: Are Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) populations eligible?
  - HCPF Response: Each portion of the [Comprehensive Care Waiver](#) has different allowances for CHP+ and Health First Colorado members.

### Next Steps

CHI closed the meeting and invited participants to stay engaged:

- Subscribe to HCPF's [newsletter](#) to make sure you are aware of future engagement and feedback opportunities, as well as project updates.
- Attend the next meeting on [July 22](#) to discuss nutrition and social supports.

### For more information contact:

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