

# Colorado Medicaid Fact Sheet

## *Long Term Services and Supports: Vital services for older adults and people with disabilities*

May 2025

Medicaid serves as the [single largest payer of Long-Term Services and Supports \(LTSS\) in the United States](#), significantly impacting the quality of life for older adults and individuals with disabilities. Unlike Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance offer very limited coverage for these essential services, making Medicaid an indispensable safety net.

**LTSS assists older adults and people with disabilities with daily activities** in institutional settings, such as nursing facilities, or community-based settings. Services include:

- meal preparation
- personal care (bathing, dressing)
- medication management
- mobility
- community engagement



**Nationally, Medicaid funds 61% of LTSS expenditures = \$415 billion in 2022**

**LTSS makes up 4-5% of Medicaid enrollment and accounts for 42% of total Medicaid claims costs, reflecting the intensive and ongoing nature of these services.**

### **Colorado serves 80,823 individuals\* with LTSS**

- **45% Older Adults** (aged 65+)
- **40% Adults** (ages 21-64)
- **15% Children and Adolescents** (Under 20 years, including former foster youth)

**LTSS members have significantly higher health care complexity compared to the broader Medicaid population:**

- **86% have at least one chronic condition**, compared to 28% among general Medicaid enrollees.
- **37% live with 5+ chronic conditions**

**Significant growth is expected due to demographic shifts and health trends:**

- Adults aged 60+ with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) are projected to double by 2030, increasing demand for specialized support.
- ~70% of people aged 65+ will require some form of LTSS, with increased care needs as they age.
- Many LTSS recipients have incomes below the federal poverty level, making Medicaid critical as the primary funding source for these essential services.



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\*Numbers represent the total number of distinct individuals served within FY 23-24

# Medicaid Fact Sheet | LTSS Programs in Colorado

Colorado serves 80,823 individuals\* with LTSS



Click the boxes to learn more about each program

**50,034 members**

served by **Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waivers**

**12,628 members**

served in institutional care settings: Nursing Facilities, Intermediate Care Facilities, Hospital Back-Up Programs

**7,526 members**

served by state-funded only programs

**5,590 enrollees**

served by **Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)**

**5,045 members**

served by [Long-Term Home Health](#) and [Private Duty Nursing](#) (without HCBS)

\*Numbers represent the total number of distinct individuals served within FY 23-24

## Commitment to Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS)

Colorado is committed to promoting independence and community integration through HCBS. The state operates [10 specialized HCBS waivers](#) tailored to various populations and individualized care needs. These waivers enable members to access care in less restrictive, community-based settings. HCBS waivers not only enhance quality of life but are often more cost-effective than institutional care.

### Adult Waivers

- Brain Injury Waiver (BI)
- Community Mental Health Supports Waiver (CMHS)
- Complementary and Integrative Health Waiver (CIH)
- Developmental Disabilities Waiver (DD)
- Elderly, Blind, and Disabled Waiver (EBD)
- Supported Living Services Waiver (SLS)

### Children's Waivers

- Children's Home and Community-Based Services Waiver (CHCBS)
- Children's Habilitation Residential Program Waiver (CHRP)
- Children's Extensive Support Waiver (CES)
- Children with Life-Limiting Illness Waiver (CLLI)



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