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State/Territory Name: Colorado

State Plan Amendment (SPA) #: 24-0025

This file contains the following documents in the order listed:

- 1) Approval Letter
- 2) CMS Form 179
- 3) Approved SPA Pages

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
601 E. 12th St., Room 355
Kansas City, Missouri 64106



Medicaid and CHIP Operations Group

September 17, 2024

Adela Flores-Brennan
State Medicaid Director
Colorado Department of Health Care
Policy and Financing
1570 Grant Street
Denver, CO 80203-1818

Re: Colorado State Plan Amendment (SPA) 24-0025

Dear Adela Flores-Brennan:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reviewed your Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) submitted under transmittal number (TN) 24-0025. This amendment proposes to define and authorize reimbursement for Community Health Workers (CHW) by Health First Colorado as providers of CHW services.

We conducted our review of your submittal according to statutory requirements in Title XIX of the Social Security Act. This letter informs you that Colorado Medicaid SPA TN 24-0025 was approved on September 17, 2024, with an effective date of July 1, 2025.

Enclosed are copies of Form CMS-179 and approved SPA pages to be incorporated into the Colorado State Plan.

If you have any questions, please contact Helenita Augustus at (410) 786-8902 or via email at Helenita.Augustus@cms.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

James G. Scott, Director
Division of Program Operations

Enclosures

cc: Adela Flores-Brennan, CO State Medicaid Director
Erica Schaler, CO Medicaid

**TRANSMITTAL AND NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF
STATE PLAN MATERIAL
FOR: CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES**

1. TRANSMITTAL NUMBER <u>2 4 — 0 0 2 5</u>	2. STATE <u>CO</u>
3. PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION: TITLE OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT <input checked="" type="radio"/> XIX <input type="radio"/> XXI	

TO: CENTER DIRECTOR
CENTERS FOR MEDICAID & CHIP SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

4. PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE
July 1, 2025

5. FEDERAL STATUTE/REGULATION CITATION
Social Security Act, Section 1905(a)(13)(C)

6. FEDERAL BUDGET IMPACT (Amounts in WHOLE dollars)
a. FFY 2024 \$ 0
b. FFY 2025 \$ 2,003,019

7. PAGE NUMBER OF THE PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT
Supplement to Attachment 3.1-A Limitations to Care and Services Item 13.c Preventive Services (Pages 4-5 of 5)(NEW)

Attachment 4.19-B Methods and Standards for Establishing Payment Rates Other Types of Care Item 13.c Preventive Services. (Page 2 of 2)(NEW)

8. PAGE NUMBER OF THE SUPERSEDED PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT (If Applicable)

9. SUBJECT OF AMENDMENT
This proposed State Plan Amendment would define and authorize reimbursement for Community Health Workers (CHW) by Health First Colorado as providers of CHW services.

10. GOVERNOR'S REVIEW (Check One)

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORTED NO COMMENT
 COMMENTS OF GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ENCLOSED
 NO REPLY RECEIVED WITHIN 45 DAYS OF SUBMITTAL

OTHER, AS SPECIFIED: **Governor's letter dated 5 April 2023**

12. TYPED NAME
Adela Flores-Brennan

13. TITLE
Medicaid Director

14. DATE SUBMITTED
[Fill out day of submission]

15. RETURN TO
Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
1570 Grant Street
Denver, CO 80203-1818

Attn: Alex Lyons

FOR CMS USE ONLY

16. DATE RECEIVED June 27, 2024	17. DATE APPROVED September 17, 2024
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PLAN APPROVED - ONE COPY ATTACHED

18. EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPROVED MATERIAL July 1, 2025	19. SIGNATURE OF APPROVING OFFICIAL
20. TYPED NAME OF APPROVING OFFICIAL James G. Scott	21. TITLE OF APPROVING OFFICIAL Director, Division of Program Operations

22. REMARKS

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

STATE OF COLORADO

Supplement to Attachment 3.1-A

Page 4 of 5

LIMITATIONS TO CARE AND SERVICES-PREVENTIVE SERVICES

3. Community Health Workers

Effective July 1, 2025, Health First Colorado members are eligible to receive Community Health Worker (CHW) services. Community Health Worker services are preventive health services, as defined in 42 CFR 440.130(c), to prevent disease, disability, and other health conditions or their progression; to prolong life; and promote physical and behavioral health and efficiency. Community Health Worker services must be recommended by a physician or other licensed practitioner of the healing arts acting within their scope of authorized practice under State law. CHWs are trusted members of their community who help address chronic conditions, preventive health care needs, and health-related social needs.

a. Covered Services

CHW covered services include:

1. Health System Navigation and Resource Coordination: Includes helping to engage, re-engage, or ensure member-led follow up in primary care, routine preventive care, adherence to treatment plans, and/or self-management of chronic conditions, including assisting beneficiaries to access covered services and other community resources necessary to promote health, address health care barriers and health related social needs.
2. Health Promotion and Health Coaching: Provides information and training to members that enables them to make positive contributions to their health status. Health Promotion and Coaching includes screening for health-related social needs, setting goals and creating an action plan, and providing information and/or coaching.
3. Health Education and Training: Train and/or increase the member's awareness of methods and measures that have been proven effective in avoiding illness and/or lessening its effects. The content of education must be consistent with established or recognized healthcare standards.

b. Provider Qualifications

TN No. CO-24-0025
Supersedes TN No. NEW

Approval Date 9/17/2024
Effective Date 7/1/2025

Community Health Worker services may be provided by the following types of qualified individuals:

1. Community Health Workers are required to obtain credentialing through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). Credentialing includes mastery of the following core competencies: community assessment, engagement, and capacity building, individual assessment and advocacy, effective communication, cultural responsiveness and mediation, education to promote healthy behavior change, care coordination, use of public health concepts and approaches, and professional skills and conduct.

To receive a Community Health Worker credential and be placed on the CDPHE Community Health Worker Registry, an individual must:

- Participate in a CDPHE-recognized Community Health Worker Training program, and
 - Complete and pass the state Community Health Worker Assessment.
2. Community Health Representatives (CHRs) are to obtain credentials suitable to their tribal CHR requirements. Authority for the CHR program can be found in the Indian Health Care Improvement Act at 25 U.S.C. §1616.

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

STATE OF COLORADO

Attachment 4.19-B

METHODS AND STANDARDS FOR ESTABLISHING PAYMENT RATES –
OTHER TYPES OF CARE

Attachment 4.19-B

Page 2 of 2

13.c PREVENTIVE SERVICES: Community Health Workers

Community Health Worker services shall be reimbursed at the lower of the following:

1. Submitted charges; or
2. Market-based fee schedule as determined by the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (the Department) based on an analysis of private sector behavioral health care management corporation reimbursement rates and reimbursement rates of similar services covered by the Department.

Except as otherwise noted in the State Plan, state-developed fee schedule rates are the same for both governmental and private providers. The rates are effective for services on or after the date listed on the Attachment 4.19-B Introduction Page. All rates can be found on the official web site of the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing at <https://hcpf.colorado.gov/provider-rates-fee-schedule>.