

Draft

CLAG Recommendations for an Aging Population

Serving the non-Medicaid Population

CLAG Recommendations

Colorado's population is rapidly aging, by 2035 1 in 4 people will be over 60. The fastest growing segment of the population is those 85 and older. As people age many are faced with disabling conditions. For the first time in history people with disabilities are living longer and are experiencing the effects of aging. It makes sense that the two communities build partnerships and support one another, especially in the common ground of long-term services and supports. Both Medicaid and non-Medicaid funded services are needed to support Coloradoan's who are aging or have a disability. They deserve a variety of quality community-based services that enables them to live the life they want, a common entry point to access services and the support to make their own decisions.

Increase funding for Non-Medicaid Community Services and Supports

- Provide the full spectrum of supports that allow people to live in their homes and prevent premature or unnecessary institutionalization.
- Older American's Act programs are more cost effective by a factor of 4 to 1 compared to Medicaid HCBS services and 8 to 1 compared to Medicaid nursing home care
- Reduce waiting lists and help keep pace with the going demand
- Resources must be sustainable and dependable to build and provide effective supports for the rapidly increasing number of aging Coloradoans
- We fully recognize that we are “In this together”:
- Target those in greatest risk of institutionalization: those living in rural areas, are socially isolated, with severe disability or dementia

Develop of a system of long-term services and supports that is available to all ages.

- Support the development of new programs that will enhance services, such as Medicaid-funded home-delivered meals, for those receiving home and community-based services.
- Expand non-Medicaid services and supports – to provide more service in the community and reduce the need for expensive Medicaid services
- Provide “Older-Americans-Act-like” services to people under 60 not receiving Medicaid including but not limited to: Meals, Transportation, Legal Assistance, Home Modifications, Homemaker, Personal and Caregiving

Strengthen and further the develop collaborative efforts between the State Agencies and Area Agencies on Aging (AAA's to achieve an improved system of long-term services and supports in Colorado.

- Increase funding for Older Coloradoans Programs that keep seniors independent in their own homes.
- Support collaborations between the AAAs and HCPF, such as the Colorado Choice Transitions (CCT) grant.
- Encourage and support the on-going efforts of SUA and the AAA's to partner with foundations and other organizations to build and develop the programs that serve seniors and people with disabilities.
- Create a LTSS structure that encourages collaboration, effective coordination, strategic planning and sustainable funding.

Development of a common entry point system for both older adults and people with disabilities.

- Develop a common entry point system for people who need long-term services and supports to obtain information, assistance, assessment and community based services regardless of their income, age or abilities.
- Consider the existing statewide Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) concept as a model for providing these services to individuals and their families.
- Provide funding to fully integrate support for persons with disabilities in the current ADRC system