

Title of Rule: Revision to the Medical Assistance Rule concerning Community Connector Services, Section 8.7514  
Rule Number: MSB 25-02-04-A  
Division / Contact / Phone: Office of Community Living/ Meg Janeba/ 4741

## STATEMENT OF BASIS AND PURPOSE

1. Summary of the basis and purpose for the rule or rule change. (State what the rule says or does and explain why the rule or rule change is necessary).

Community Connector Service (CCS) helps children build relationships, become active members of their communities, and engage in meaningful everyday childhood activities. CCS helps children seek new experiences in their own communities and in nature. By contrast, CCS is not intended to support activities of daily living or to subsidize purely recreational activities. Under current regulations, there is no limit to the total number of CCS units that members may receive; however, members may receive no more than 2080 units per year of CCS provided by a legally responsible person. Insufficient limits on CCS have led to the service being used for unintended and inappropriate purposes. Similarly, insufficient limits on CCS have resulted in Department expenditures far exceeding projects. This rule change is intended to limit inappropriate utilization of CCS to better align its realities with its initial goals and projections.

2. An emergency rule-making is imperatively necessary

- to comply with state or federal law or federal regulation and/or
- for the preservation of public health, safety and welfare.

Explain:

3. Federal authority for the Rule, if any:

N/A

4. State Authority for the Rule:

Sections 25.5-1-301 through 25.5-1-303, C.R.S. ;

Initial Review  
Proposed Effective Date

**05/09/25**  
**08/14/25**

Final Adoption  
Emergency Adoption

**06/13/25**

**DOCUMENT #06**

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## **REGULATORY ANALYSIS**

1. Describe the classes of persons who will be affected by the proposed rule, including classes that will bear the costs of the proposed rule and classes that will benefit from the proposed rule.

The proposed rule, which is to be implemented July, 1 2025, will impact all Community Connector Services providers and those HCBS waiver members who receive Community Connector Services, which can include members on the Children's Extensive Services (CES) and Children's Habilitation Residential Program (CHRP) waivers. There may be an impact to Community Connector Services providers' revenue as a result of the new limitations as this will limit the number of hours a member may access this service. Additionally, families may experience a reduction in reimbursable services.

2. To the extent practicable, describe the probable quantitative and qualitative impact of the proposed rule, economic or otherwise, upon affected classes of persons.

Community Connector Services are provided to thousands of children ages 0 to 20 years old each year, amounting to \$35,797,710.96 spent in the last fiscal year. Of the members that receive this service, at least 55% of members utilized 40 hours (or 160 units) or less each month. If their utilization remains relatively constant throughout the year, they would not be impacted by a cap of 2,080 units per year. On the high end, at most 32.3% of members utilized more than 45 hours (or 180 units) or more each month and would surpass the hard cap if their utilization remained relatively constant throughout the year. The remaining members utilized between 40 and 45 hours (between 160-180 units per month), which would annualize to right around the 2,080 unit limit.

3. Discuss the probable costs to the Department and to any other agency of the implementation and enforcement of the proposed rule and any anticipated effect on state revenues.

The proposed rule change will lessen the steep increase in costs and better align Community Connector Services with its intended purpose and scope.

4. Compare the probable costs and benefits of the proposed rule to the probable costs and benefits of inaction.

This rule has negligible costs yet improves the Department's oversight of Community Connector Service and makes it less vulnerable to waste and misuse. Failing to

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implement this rule would have no benefits while doing nothing to address excessive and inappropriate utilization of Community Connector Service.

5. Determine whether there are less costly methods or less intrusive methods for achieving the purpose of the proposed rule.

There are no other methods to achieve the purpose of this proposed rule.

6. Describe any alternative methods for achieving the purpose for the proposed rule that were seriously considered by the Department and the reasons why they were rejected in favor of the proposed rule.

No alternative methods were considered.

1 **8.7000 Home and Community-Based Services**

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6 **8.7500 HCBS Benefits and Services Requirements**

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9 **8.7514 Community Connector Services**

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12 **8.7514.C Community Connector Services Exclusions and Limitations**

- 13 1. The cost of admission to professional or minor league sporting events, movies, theater, concert  
14 tickets, or any activity that is entertainment in nature or any food or drink items are specifically  
15 excluded and shall not be reimbursed.
- 16 2. Telehealth Community Connector services cannot be provided by the member's legally  
17 responsible person/s.
- 18 3. HCBS- CES and CHRP Waivers - This service is limited to 2080 units per support plan year,  
19 unless otherwise authorized by the Department. This unit limit applies to Community Connector  
20 services provided by either a legally responsible person(s) or another service provider.
- 21 ~~a. A request to increase service hours may be made to the Department on a case-by-case~~  
22 ~~basis.~~
- 23 4. ~~HCBS-CES Waiver: This service is limited to 2080 units per support plan year when the service~~  
24 ~~is provided by a legally responsible person(s). There is not a unit limit when the service is~~  
25 ~~provided by another service provider.~~
- 26 5. ~~A request to increase service hours provided by the Member's legally responsible person(s) may~~  
27 ~~be made to the Department on a case-by-case basis.~~

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