

# Update on Comprehensive Care for Colorado

Colorado's Medicaid 1115 Demonstration Waiver

May 29, 2025

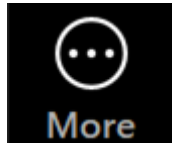


# Language Interpretation

- To access language interpretation, click Interpretation in your meeting/webinar controls.



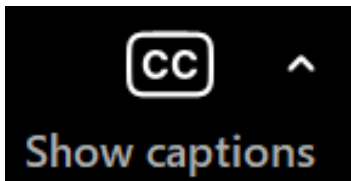
- If you do not see the Interpretation button, click “More...”, then Interpretation.



- Click the language that you would like to hear.

# Closed Captions

- Closed Captions are available in the meeting controls toolbar at the bottom of your screen. To turn them on, click the Show Captions icon.
- Captions can be translated into different languages by clicking on the up arrow next to the Closed Captions button and then selecting your preferred language.



# Meeting Logistics

- We are recording: avoid specific details about medical history or insurance/membership status in any way as this is considered Protected Health Information (PHI) and/or personally identifiable information (PII).
- Attendees will be muted during the presentation.
- Chat will be used by HCPF staff to share out links and information.



# Meeting Logistics

- Due to the number of attendees, use the Q and A feature at the bottom of your Zoom window to ask questions.





# Our Mission

Improving health care equity, access and outcomes for the people we serve while saving Coloradans money on health care and driving value for Colorado.



**COLORADO**  
Department of Health Care  
Policy & Financing

# What We Do

The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) administers Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid program), Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) and other health care programs for Coloradans who qualify.



# Agenda

- Overview of Comprehensive Care for Colorado
- Updates from each part included in the 1115 waiver
- Questions and Answers

# Speakers

- Adela Flores-Brennan, Medicaid Director
- Jennifer Holcomb, Behavioral Health Benefits Section Manager
- Alaina Kelley, Prevention Services Policy Specialist
- Morgan Anderson, Primary Care Unit Supervisor
- Emily Holcomb, Waiver Implementation Specialist
- Amy Dearmore, Eligibility Coordinator
- Jill Schnathorst, Compliance & Innovation Division Director
- Kristine Dos Santos, Strategic Implementation Supervisor

# Overview of the 1115 Waiver known as Comprehensive Care for Colorado



# What is a waiver?

Federal rules govern Medicaid  
and CHP+ eligibility,  
required benefits

Services in the State Plan  
meet all of these  
requirements

**Waiver Request**

States can request to **WAIVE federal rules** to have **more flexibility** to offer more coverage to more people and cover more services for certain populations or settings.

**Approval** comes with additional reporting requirements for a 5-year period.



# Comprehensive Care Waiver

Amendment on our current SUD  
1115 Demonstration Waiver

Health-Related Social Need Services

Reentry Services (M-REACH)

Services for People with Serious  
Mental Illness

Continuous Eligibility

Presumptive Eligibility



# Comprehensive Care Phased Approach

## Phase 1 2025

### Summer

- Phase 1 of Housing Services

### Fall/Winter

- Extended inpatient stays for persons with Serious Mental Illness
- Medicaid Reentry and Community Health Services in state facilities

**\*All timelines are based on expected CMS approvals and subject to change**

# Comprehensive Care Phased Approach

## Phase 2 Winter 2026

Continuous Eligibility for children 0-3

Continuous eligibility for adults exiting carceral setting for a 12 month period

Long Term Services & Support users receive presumptive eligibility (amendment submitted but not yet approved)

# Comprehensive Care Phased Approach

## Phase 3 Summer 2026

Pantry Stocking/Delivered meals for  
Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)  
and Community Access Team (CAT)  
voucher recipients

Additional Housing Services for former  
foster youth

Medicaid Reentry and Community  
Health Services in jails

# Comprehensive Care Phased Approach

## Phase 4 Summer 2027

**Pantry Stocking/Delivered meals for  
PSH and CAT voucher Recipients**

**Additional Housing Services for former  
foster youth**

# Substance Use Disorder (SUD)

“Expanding the Substance  
Use Disorder Continuum of  
Care”



# SUD Overview

- Originally the only services in the waiver. Approved and implemented in Jan 2021.
- Services:
  - Residential SUD treatment
  - Withdrawal management
  - Full continuum of outpatient services
- Eligibility:
  - 21-64 years in age

# Successes of the SUD Demonstration (July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2023)

- The State completed significant activities to ensure coverage for the full continuum of care for SUD services
- Increase in members receiving Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and SUD services
- Modest increases in network adequacy and provider capacity



# Upcoming

- Strengthen access to care across all critical levels of care
- Improve retention in care
- Improve follow-up after hospitalizations and emergency department use
- Improve care coordination and treatment level transitions
- Transition to new ASAM requirements

# Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN)

## Housing and Nutrition



# What are Health-Related Social Needs?

- Non-medical factors that influence a person's health and well-being
- Includes things like housing, utilities, nutrition and food, transportation, employment, environmental safety, and interpersonal violence

Extensive research has indicated these factors can account for as much as 50% of health outcomes.

# What is Colorado doing with HRSN with an Amendment?

- Housing Services
- Nutrition Services
- Year 1 Goal: Serve 1,000-1,500 Members



# Housing Services

Colorado may provide housing-related services in a phased approach:

- Case management for access to housing supports
- Pre-tenancy navigation services
- Tenancy sustaining services
- One-time transition and moving costs
- Rental assistance and utility assistance
- In addition to eligibility criteria, members must qualify for a housing voucher through DOH

# HRSN Populations

Housing & nutrition services for the following populations:

- Individuals eligible for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) vouchers experiencing a behavioral health need and/or chronic health condition
- Individuals eligible for Community Access Team (CAT) vouchers
- Individuals eligible for Colorado Fostering Success (CFS) vouchers

# Eligibility Criteria for PSH

- Medicaid eligible
- Be 18 years of age or older
- Have a disabling condition
- Have a history of homelessness or be at risk of homelessness
- Must be at or below 30% of the area median income
- Meet Clinical Criteria
  - Diagnosed behavioral health need, AND/OR
  - Chronic Health Condition

# Eligibility for CAT

Community Access Team (CAT)  
Vouchers are available to Members  
that:

- Exiting institutions using Targeted Case Management - Transition Coordination (TCM-TC) and moving into the community using a Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waiver and who need a housing voucher to afford housing in the community.
- At risk of institutionalization due to unstable housing



# Eligibility for CFS (SB23-082)

Colorado Fostering Success (CFS)  
Vouchers are available to youth:

- Being at least 18 years of age but less than 26 years of age;
- Prior experience in one of several ways with the foster care or kinship care system;
- Currently experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness, as defined by the program advisory board;
- Being a Colorado resident; and
- Having an income level below the DOLA determined income level.

# Recent Progress

- Increasing providers to serve PSH clients
- Building out the medical benefit
- Finalizing payment mechanisms

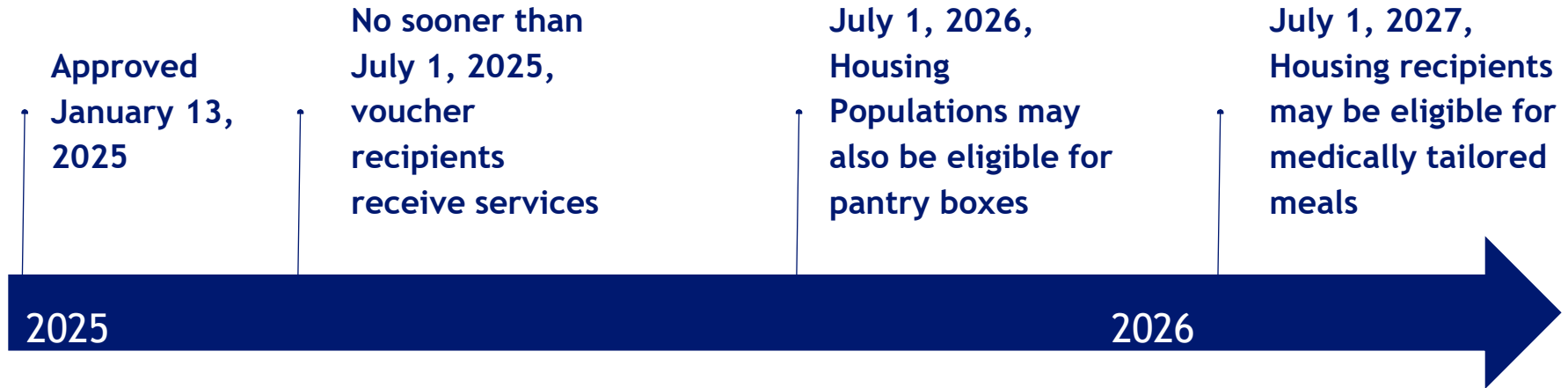


# Who will provide the housing services?

Providers that previously participated in Colorado Medicaid housing demonstrations are enrolling and getting ready to serve Members.

Only those enrolled as a Supportive Housing Provider (PT 89/208) will be able to bill for the HRSN housing services.

# Housing Services Timeline



# Nutrition Services



# Nutrition Services and Go-Live Dates

**Nutrition  
Counseling**

**No sooner than Jan 1,  
2026  
(Phase 2)**

**Home Delivered  
Meals & Pantry  
Stocking**

**No sooner than Jan 1,  
2026  
(Phase 2)**

**Medically  
Tailored Meals**

**No sooner than Jan 1,  
2027  
(Phase 3)**

Dependent on funding availability.

# Eligibility for Nutrition Services

- Based on housing voucher eligibility
- Screening requirements - to be determined
- Must be medically appropriate and documented

# Upcoming

- Benefit Design
- Stakeholder Engagement  
Opportunity: Late  
Summer/Early Fall!





# Changing care for persons experiencing Serious Mental Illness and Serious Emotional Disturbance (SMI/SED)



# Changes to Inpatient Care

- Serious Mental Illness (SMI) or Children with a Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED)
- Reimbursement for stays up to 60 days if medically necessary
- Comprehensive continuum of care to treat SMI/SED including inpatient, outpatient, and community-based services.

# Eligibility for SMI/SED services

- Eligible Individuals:
  - 21-64 years in age
- Eligible Settings:
  - SMI/SED services in Institutions for Mental Disease (IMDs)
    - CSU/ATUs
    - Free Standing Psych Hospitals
- Covered Services:
  - Allow reimbursement for up to 60 days while maintaining an average length of stay of 30 days for each member

# Upcoming

- SMI/SED Stakeholder Engagement forum
  - June 26th, 12-1pm
  - Monthly, third Thursday
  - [Register to attend](#)
- Behavioral Health Hospital and Residential Facility Forum
  - July 17th, 12-1pm
  - Quarterly, third Thursday
  - [Register to attend](#)

# Continuous Eligibility (CE)

- CE means keeping members enrolled for a certain period of time, regardless of life changes that would otherwise cause a loss of coverage like income.
- **Goals:**
  - Ensure coverage for young children and vulnerable adults.
  - Promote access to physical, behavioral, dental, and preventive services.

# Medicaid Reentry and Community Health (M- REACH)



# M-REACH Overview

## Continued

- Covered Services:
  - Case management 90 days prior to release
  - Medication assisted treatment (MAT), including medications paired with counseling
  - A 30-day supply of all prescription medications upon release

# M-REACH Overview

- Eligible Individuals:
  - All incarcerated Medicaid and CHP+ members, 90 days prior to release
- Eligible Settings:
  - Phase I: Division of Youth Services and Department of Corrections beginning July 1, 2025 pending outstanding federal authority
  - Phase 2: Local jails and tribal detention centers beginning July 1, 2026



# M-REACH Recent Progress

- Applied for the Reentry State Planning Grant to help with implementation
- HCPF has been working closely with state partners at DOC and DYS to prepare Phase 1 facilities to participate in M-REACH and establish capacity to bill Medicaid
- Each facility must pass a Facility Readiness Assessment before HCPF can pay for services provided at that location

# Continuous Eligibility



# Continuous Eligibility

- Applies to children ages 0 until the end of their 3rd birthday month
- Adults 19-65 leaving a state Department of Corrections (DOC) facility for 12 months
- Planned Effective Date Is January 1, 2026

# Children Age 0-3

- Children will be continuously eligible from the day they are born until the end of their third birthday month.
- Regardless of changes in household income, or immigration status.
- Applies to children in Health First Colorado and Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+).
- Annual renewals are automated.

# Adults Leaving DOC

- Adults ages 19 to 65 who are leaving a state Dept. Of Correction facility are continuously eligible for Health First Colorado or CHP+ coverage for 12 months after release.
- They will remain in CE regardless of changes in income, unless requested.

# Upcoming

- Opportunities to be announced in Summer and Fall 2025:
  - County trainings
  - Member updates
  - Community updates



# Presumptive Eligibility for Long-Term Services and Supports



# LTSS Presumptive Eligibility

- Presumptive eligibility permits the enrollment of members in benefit programs who are likely to be ultimately eligible for the program
- Will allow an eligible adult to receive a defined set of benefits and services while their Long-Term Care Medicaid application is processed
- Can allow members a greater chance of residing in their environment of choice



# LTSS Presumptive Eligibility

## Eligibility Criteria:

- Meet level-of-care eligibility for Home Community Based Services (HCBS)
- Meet financial eligibility for Long-Term Care Medicaid
- Be experiencing one or more defined crisis criteria

# LTSS Presumptive Eligibility

## Services:

- An established package of services will be offered and may include things like personal care, meals, and/or State Plan Benefits
- Assistance with Long-Term Care Medicaid enrollment and other support



# Questions?

# Contact

[HCPF HRSN Webpage](#)

[Sign up for our updates](#)

Questions:

[hcpf\\_1115waiver@state.co.us](mailto:hcpf_1115waiver@state.co.us)

# Thank you!

