



COLORADO

Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver Amendments Fact Sheet

August 2023

The Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (Department) intends to submit 1915(c) waiver amendments for the following Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers:

- Persons with Brain Injury (BI)
- Children's Extensive Supports (CES)
- Children's Habilitation Residential Program (CHRP)
- Children's Home and Community-Based Services (CHCBS)
- Community Mental Health Supports (CMHS)
- Complementary and Integrative (CIH)
- Developmental Disabilities (DD)
- Elderly, Blind, and Disabled (EBD)
- Supported Living Services (SLS)

The Children with Life-Limiting Illness (CLLI) waiver does not have any policy changes this fall and will not be amended for these 1915(c) waiver amendments.

The Department will accept public comments from August 10, 2023, through September 8, 2023. The Department intends to submit the amendments to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on September 15, 2023. The Department will request an effective date of January 1, 2024 for the amendments.

Explanations of changes within the waiver applications can be found below.

Public Comments will be accepted from August 10, 2023, through September 8, 2023.

Summary of Changes

Home Modification Lifetime Cap Update

As allowed by the passage of the Long Bill for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 23-24, the Department is amending the lifetime cap for home modifications. The cap will still be

\$14,000 per member but will now be over the five-year life cycle of the waiver. (BI, CIH, CMHS, EBD)

Home Modification and Home Accessibility Adaptations Language Addition

The Department is adding language to the waiver that work completed prior to approval for Home Modifications or Home Accessibility Adaptations may not be reimbursed. The current Home Modification and Home Accessibility Adaptations approval process is not changing. (BI, CES, CIH, CMHS, EBD, SLS)

Increase Expense Limit for HCBS Transition Services Setup

As allowed by the passage of the Long Bill for SFY 23-24, the benefit for Transition Setup expenses has been increased from \$1,500 to \$2,000. The Department may authorize additional funds above the \$2,000 limit, not to exceed a total value of \$2,500, when it is demonstrated as a necessary expense to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the client. (BI, CIH, CMHS, DD, EBD, SLS)

CHRP Benefit Titles Reformatting

The Department is reformatting language to make Intensive Support (IS) services and Transition Support (TS) services more user friendly. The Department is removing the service headers (IS and TS) and making Wraparound Services and Child & Youth Mentorship their own waiver services. There will be no changes to these service definitions, providers, or settings. (CHRP)

Vehicle Modification Language Addition

The Department is adding formal language to the waiver that work completed prior to approval for vehicle modifications may not be reimbursed. The current Vehicle Modification approval process is not changing. (CES, SLS)

Parent Education Service Name Change

The Department is changing the service name of ‘Parent Education’ to ‘Primary Caregiver Education.’ The Department is also updating language throughout the CES waiver where ‘Parent Education’ is referenced to ‘Primary Caregiver Education.’ There will be no changes to the service definition. (CES)

Wellness Education Benefit (WEB) Addition

As allowed by the passage of the Long Bill for SFY 23-24, the Wellness Education Benefit (WEB) is a new service being added to the CHCBS waiver. The WEB is individualized educational materials designed to prevent hospitalization or movement into an institutional setting. The WEB helps members in obtaining, processing, and understanding information that assists with managing health-related issues, promoting

community living, and achieving goals identified in their person-centered service plans. The WEB also provides members with actionable tools and information for informed decision-making and preparation for conversations with medical and social service professionals.

The Department is also updating the waiver application to reflect the WEB will operate concurrently with a 1915(b)(4). The Department is contracting with a single Wellness Education Benefit Provider Contractor (the Contractor) to help with the development and distribution of the WEB. After extensive research, the Department has identified the Contractor as the sole source capable of completing all the unique tasks involved in executing the WEB. The 1915(b)(4) allows the Department to contract with one provider for the WEB.

The Department also updated Appendix A to include the Wellness Education Benefit (WEB) contractor. (CHCBS)

Development of Respite Provider Specialties

As allowed by the passage of the Long Bill for SFY 23-24, the Department is developing Respite provider specialties to support the individual and unique needs of each member. Respite care will be delegated into three specialties provided by a skilled, therapeutic, or unskilled provider type with appropriate provider qualifications assigned to each specialty. (CES, CHRP)

Overnight Respite Clarification

For clarification, the Department is adding the following language to the Respite service definition in the CHRP waiver: "Overnight, out-of-home respite services may be provided in a certified foster home, kinship home, Group Home, or Residential Child Care Facility (RCCF)." The allowed providers for Overnight respite are not changing. The Department is adding the language to make it easier to understand where overnight respite can be provided. (CHRP)

Removal of Old Age Pension (OAP) Standards

In an effort to increase the member's personal needs amount for those residing in residential settings, the Department has modified the Post-Eligibility Treatment of Income (PETI) calculations. As such, the Department has removed the reference to the Old Age Pension (OAP) standards within that calculation. (BI, CMHS, EBD)

Public Comment Opportunity

The Department will post drafts of the waiver amendment applications on the [HCBS Public Comment Opportunities website](#) for public comment.

- **The Department will make available a draft of the waiver amendments for a 30-day public comment period from August 10, 2023, through September 8, 2023.**
- **The Department commits to incorporating comments, concerns, and suggestions when and wherever possible.**
- All comments and responses will be recorded in a listening log that will be posted on the Department’s website after the public comment period ends.

To request a paper or electronic copy of the waiver amendments including the full draft waiver and/or to provide public comment, please do so by:

- Phone: 303-866-3684
- Email: HCPF_LTSS.PublicComment@state.co.us
- Postal Mail: Department of Health Care Policy & Financing, 1570 Grant Street, Denver, CO 80203, ATTN: HCBS Waiver Amendments
- Fax: 303-866-2786 ATTN: HCBS Waiver Amendments