

INFORMATIONAL MEMO

TITLE:	HOUSING VOUCHER PROGRAM – VOUCHER AVAILABILITY
SUPERSEDES NUMBER:	N/A
EFFECTIVE DATE:	APRIL 1, 2023
DIVISION AND OFFICE:	BENEFITS & SERVICES MANAGEMENT DIVISION, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY LIVING
PROGRAM AREA:	HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES (HCBS)
KEY WORDS:	SUPPORTED LIVING SERVICES, SLS, HOUSING, DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS, DOLA, HOUSING VOUCHER
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APPROVED BY: CANDACE BAILEY	

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Purpose and Audience:

The purpose of this Informational Memo is to inform members, stakeholders, Case Managers (CMs) and Case Management Agencies (CMAs) of the Housing Voucher Program through the Department of Healthcare Policy & Financing (HCPF) and Department of Local Affairs (DOLA).

Information:

The housing voucher program, known as Community Access Team Vouchers (CATV), is operated by The Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). The program provides an allowance for rent paid by low-income households based upon their income. A housing subsidy is paid to the landlord directly by DOLA on behalf of the member. The member would pay the difference between the rent charged by the landlord and the amount paid by the program. Generally, the amount the member would pay is roughly 30%.

The program is "tenant-based," meaning the member can use it in virtually any rental unit, so long as the cost of the rent plus utilities meet the program requirements. The

member can choose any type of housing that meets their needs. The member would work with their case manager and the DOLA team members on the qualifications and the process.

This program is available now, statewide, and once the member leases a unit with their voucher, it has no expiration date. As long as the member stays in compliance with program rules and regulations, they will keep their housing subsidy.

The Department of Local Affairs, Division of Housing (DOLA/DOH) has housing vouchers available for Medicaid members to enable them to live in a setting appropriate for their needs. Qualified members include:

- 1. Members who are exiting institutions or moving to a less restrictive setting using Transition Coordination Services (formerly known as the Colorado Choice Transitions program) 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.
 - a. Transition Coordination Services also includes Housing Navigation services, to help the member identify an appropriate unit to rent.
- 2. Members on the Supported Living Services (SLS) waiver who:
 - a. Request an Emergency Enrollment to the Developmental Disability (DD) waiver and,
 - b. Could be appropriately supported by SLS Exception services and a housing voucher to help them afford independent housing, and
 - c. Wish to remain living independently.

To apply:

- 1. Members requesting Transition Coordination Services:
 - Contact a Transition Coordination Agency, or
 - Submit a Medicaid Member Options Counseling Referral Form
- SLS members who need affordable housing should contact their CM and CMA to discuss whether they meet the requirements for a potential housing voucher. The Case Manager will work with HCPF to refer the member to DOLA/DOH to start the application process.
- 3. Members who meet the eligibility criteria detailed above and would like to learn more may contact their CM for support. Additional information may be found at:
 - <u>Transition Services | Colorado Department of Health Care Policy &</u> <u>Financing</u>

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• <u>https://hcpf.colorado.gov/transition-services</u>

Attachment(s):

None

Department Contact:

HCBS Inbox: <u>hcpf_hcbs_questions@state.co.us</u>