



COLORADO

Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

Notice of Public Comment Process
Medicaid Section 1115 Demonstration Amendment

Public Comment Period Begins: June 10, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. MST

Public Comment Period Ends: July 10, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. MST

Public notice is hereby given that the State of Colorado's Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF) is seeking public comments on an amendment to the Expanding the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Continuum of Care Section 1115 Demonstration (Demonstration). Colorado is requesting an amendment to the Demonstration to authorize Health Related Social Needs (HRSN) Services for certain Medicaid enrollees.

The proposed HRSN services are housing and nutrition supports. The State intends to help address unmet needs related to a lack of adequate housing and nutrition support in three target populations. The lack of adequate housing and nutrition support contributes to poor health for individuals that are: 1) homeless or at risk of homelessness, 2) transitioning from residing in congregate settings, or 3) transitioning out of foster care.

HCPF is seeking to provide HRSN services beginning July 1, 2025.

Opportunity for Public Comment

The proposed Section 1115 Demonstration amendment, and a copy of the full public notice, is available for public review and comment at:

[1115 SUD Demonstration HRSN Amendment Request](#)

[Full Public Notice](#)

To request a copy of the amendment, please contact HCPF by:

- Sending an email request to hcpf_1115waiver@state.co.us;
- Sending a request by fax to 303-866-4411, Attn: 1115 SUD Demonstration Amendment; or
- Obtaining in person at the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, 303 E 17th Avenue, Denver, CO 80203.

During the public comment period, comments may be sent to hcpf_1115waiver@state.co.us. Public comments may also be submitted by post to:

Director, Health Programs Office

Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing

303 E 17th Avenue

Denver, Colorado 80203

ATTN: Public Comment - 1115 SUD Demonstration Amendment

Additional information will be posted on HCPF's *Ensuring a Full Continuum of SUD Benefits* webpage, at <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/hcpf/ensuring-full-continuum-sud-benefits>.

Public Hearings

HCPF invites the public to attend public hearings in person or join by teleconference/webinar to learn more about Colorado's Demonstration amendment and provide comments.

| | Public Hearing #1 | Public Hearing #2 |
|----------------|---|---|
| Date | June 20, 2024 | June 24, 2024 |
| Time | 11 a.m. -1 p.m. MST | 12:30-2:30 p.m. MST |
| Venue | Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing 303 E 17th Ave, Denver, CO 80203 Room 7B | Old Town Public Library 201 Peterson St, Fort Collins, CO 80524 Large Meeting Room 2 |
| Teleconference | 833 548 0276 Code: 394674 | 833 548 0276 Code: 394674 |
| Webinar | https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5Eai1Mm4Te6kFXAgvk_Ycg | https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5Eai1Mm4Te6kFXAgvk_Ycg |

Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request. Auxiliary aids and services for individuals with disabilities and language services for individuals whose first language is not English may be provided upon request. Please notify 303-866-3438 or the 504/ADA Coordinator at hcpf504ada@state.co.us at least one week prior to the meeting to make arrangements.

CMS/Medicaid Demonstration Website

Relevant webpages and additional information regarding the Medicaid demonstration can be viewed on the CMS/Medicaid website, at: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/section-1115-demo/index.html>

Summary Description of Proposed Amendment

This abbreviated public notice provides information regarding the proposed amendment request to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for approval to provide HRSN Services in the form of Housing and Nutrition Supports to certain Medicaid enrollees.

Eligible enrollees include:

1. Individuals eligible in the Permanent Supportive Housing Vouchers;



2. Individuals eligible for Colorado Fostering Success Vouchers; and
3. Individuals eligible for Community Access Team Vouchers.

HCPF proposes to provide the following housing supports through this Waiver amendment:

- Rent/temporary housing for up to six months;
- Utility costs including activation expenses and back payments to secure utilities for individuals receiving rent/temporary housing as described above;
- Pre-tenancy and tenancy sustaining services, including tenant rights education and eviction prevention;
- Housing transition navigation services;
- One-time transition and moving costs (e.g., security deposit, first month's rent, utility activation fees, movers, relocation expenses, pest eradication, pantry stocking, and the purchase of household goods and furniture); and
- Housing deposits to secure housing, including application and inspection fees and fees to secure needed identification.

Through this amendment, HCPF proposes to provide the following nutrition services:

- Nutrition counseling and instruction, tailored to health risk, nutrition-sensitive health conditions, and/or demonstrated outcome improvement;
- Medically tailored, home delivered meals tailored to health risk and eligibility criteria, and/or certain nutrition-sensitive health conditions; and
- Home delivered meals or pantry stocking.

Under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act, states may implement “experimental, pilot or Demonstration projects which, in the judgment of the Secretary [of Health and Human Services] are likely to assist in promoting the objectives of [Medicaid].” The State believes this Demonstration is likely to promote the objectives of Medicaid by providing services that address HRSN thereby leading to improved health outcomes.

Consistent with the CMS policies as outlined in the November 16, 2023, CMCS Information Bulletin, and in the CMS All States presentation on December 12, 2022, Colorado’s specific goals for the HRSN Demonstration are to:

1. **Improve the health status of Medicaid beneficiaries** by removing social barriers to health; and
 - **Objective a.** Addressing unmet HRSN within the Medicaid-eligible population will improve health outcomes.
 - **Objective b.** Addressing unmet HRSN within the Medicaid-eligible population will reduce the total cost of care.
 - **Objective c.** HRSN services will result in a reduction of readmissions within 30 days, to Emergency Departments (EDs) and hospitals.
2. **Improve connections between Medicaid beneficiaries and community services to**



address physical health, behavioral health, and health-related social needs (HRSN).

- **Objective d.** HRSN services (improvements in housing stability and nutrition) will result in an increase in recommended and/or preventive care.

This notice is submitted pursuant to Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 431.408, Subpart G, which outlines public notice processes and transparency requirements for Section 1115 Demonstrations.

