

Home Modification Benefit

December 14, 2022



COLORADO

Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

Current Concerns/Efforts

- **Home Modification Process and Project timeline concerns**
 - TA calls and quarterly trainings for all CMAs
 - Added new forms and updated current forms to make them more user friendly
 - Monthly TA calls with Contractors to answer questions and support their process
- **Lack of Providers (Contractors and OT/PT)**
 - TA calls with agencies experiencing a shortage of providers
 - Virtual Evaluations for OT/PTs still allowed
 - Connecting agencies with other local agencies such as RAEs who may also be able to support and find new providers
 - HCPF continues to work on provider recruitment especially in more rural areas



COLORADO

Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

What is a Home Accessibility Adaptation?

- In the Supported Living Services (SLS) and Children's Extensive Support (CES) waivers, home accessibility adaptations are the most cost effective physical modifications, adaptations, or improvements to the member's existing home setting which, based on the member's medical condition or disability:
 - Are necessary to ensure the health and safety of the member **OR**
 - Enable the member to function with greater independence in the home **OR**
 - Are necessary to prevent institutionalization or support deinstitutionalization of the member

Must be the most cost-effective means to meet the need



COLORADO

Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

Home Modification Process for Members

- If there is a need for a home modification for a member the first step is to reach out to the Case Manager (CM) or Case Management agency (CMA)
- The CM will work with the member to schedule an OT/PT evaluation to determine what the needs are. This evaluation will take place in the home either in person or virtually
- The CM will then send out the evaluation to Medicaid contractors in the area to obtain bids for the scope of work
- Once at least 1 bid has been received and the member agrees to that contractor the Case Manager will then send the completed Home Modification request to Department of Local Affairs (DOLA)
- DOLA will review the request, and once approved, all parties will be notified and the work can begin. Work should begin within 60 days of approval



COLORADO

Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

How much funding is available?

- The Combined cost of Home Accessibility Adaptations, Vehicle Modifications, and Assistive Technology shall not exceed \$10,000 per client over the five-year life of the waiver.
- The CES and SLS waivers renew on July 01, 2024.



COLORADO

Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

What if the home modification costs more than \$10,000?

- Costs that exceed this amount may be approved by Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) and Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF) to ensure the health and safety of the client, or to enable the client to function with greater independence in the home if:
 - The adaptation decreases the need for paid assistance in another waiver service on a long term basis and either:
 - There is an immediate risk to the member's health and safety or
 - There has been a significant change in the member's needs since a previous home modification



COLORADO

Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

- ARPA funds may provide up to an additional \$10,000 in to members who are eligible for the Home Modification Benefit
- Home Modification rules and processes must be applied to the ARPA funding.
- Home Modification waiver benefit must be fully utilized before ARPA funding can be accessed
- The funds will be available through March 2024



COLORADO

Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing



Questions



Contact Information

Emily Walsh

HCBS Benefit Specialist

emily.walsh1@state.co.us

[Home Modification Benefit Website](#)



COLORADO

Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing