



## INFORMATIONAL MEMO

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<b>Title:</b> Community Connector and Homemaker Services Engagement Opportunity	<b>Topic:</b> HCBS-CES, HCBS-CHRP
<b>Audience:</b> Members, Parents, Case Managers, Advocates, Providers	<b>Sub-Topic:</b> Services
<b>Supersedes Number:</b> N/A	<b>Division:</b> Benefits and Services Management Division
<b>Effective Date:</b> October 5, 2023	<b>Office:</b> Office of Community Living
<b>Expiration Date:</b> October 5, 2024	<b>Program Area:</b> HCBS
<b>Key Words:</b> Community Connector, Parents, Homemaker	
<b>Legal Authority:</b> N/A	
<b>Memo Author:</b> Cassandra Keller	
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<b>Issue Date:</b> October 10, 2023	
<b>Approved By:</b> Bonnie Silva	

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*HCPF Memo Series can be accessed online: <https://www.colorado.gov/hcpf/memo-series>*

### **Purpose and Audience:**

The purpose of this Informational Memo is to inform our community partners of an upcoming opportunity for stakeholder engagement on legally responsible persons providing services in the Children Extensive Supports (CES) and Children’s Habilitation Residential Program (CHRP) waivers. This flexibility has been in place since March of 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In early August of 2023, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services provided updated technical guidance stating that this flexibility could be allowed permanently within the 1915(c)-waiver authority. The Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF) has been analyzing options to allow for implementation of this flexibility in Colorado.

### **Information:**

HCPF will seek to permanently allow flexibility for legally responsible persons to provide Community Connector in the CES and CHRP waivers and Homemaker Services in the CES waiver. With this permanent modification that was previously disallowed

on the federal level, HCPF had to determine how to implement within the existing funding available and how to best ensure the permanent adoption will support the long-term solution of Community First Choice. As a reminder, Community First Choice will expand services and participant directed program access (including personal care, homemaker, and health maintenance) to members across Colorado and is scheduled for implementation on July 1, 2025.

HCPF will institute a yearly limit that equates to ten hours a week for both community connector and homemaker services within the CES and CHRP waivers. Members will have access to 2,080 units annually for services that are provided by legally responsible persons. This limit will best ensure HCPF stays within existing appropriations while still allowing this critical service to be provided by a legally responsible person(s). There will also be an easy-to-utilize exception process for families to this limit for those experiencing extenuating services.

Please note, previous guidance only allowed these services to be provided by a legally responsible person when the member already had the services authorized on their person-centered support plan. Given the flexibility will be made permanent, there will no longer be a requirement that the member previously had these services authorized on their support plan. Now, any member with an identified need that meets criteria that indicates they need that level of support will be eligible to receive the services from a legally responsible person, within the set yearly limitations.

To further discuss this change, which will tentatively take place in January of 2024, we ask that stakeholders join us for the following meeting:

### **Community Connector and Homemaker Services Engagement Opportunity**

October 18, 2023

10 to 11 a.m. MT

[Join via Google Meet](#)

Join via Phone:

1-251-262-9535, PIN: 544 833 157#

Information about the above meeting is also found on the [OCL Stakeholder Engagement calendar](#). From the calendar, meeting information can be copied to individual calendars. Accommodation request information can also be found on the calendar.

To provide written feedback prior to the listening session, please submit your feedback using [this form](#).

Additional technical guidance will be forthcoming to case management agencies and providers.

**Definition(s):**

None

**Attachment(s):**

None

**HCPF Contact:**

To provide written feedback prior to the listening session, please submit your feedback using [this form](#).