

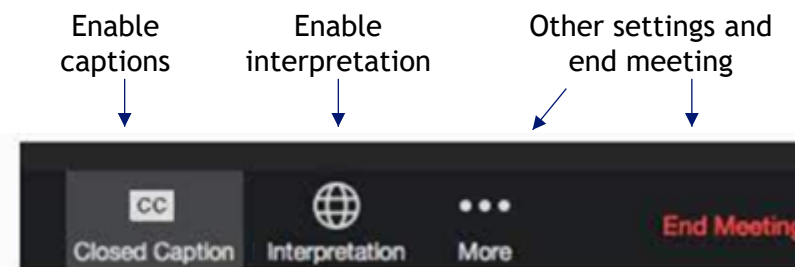
# Opportunities for Expanded Medicaid Coverage in Colorado 1115 SUD Waiver Amendment

## Health Care Policy & Financing

# Webinar Logistics

- ✓ We are recording - Avoid sharing protected health information
- ✓ Accessibility: Closed captioning services, American Sign Language (ASL) and Spanish language interpretation are available through the toolbar at the bottom of your screen.

- *Linda Introduction*



- ✓ If you are listening by phone press \*6 to unmute your line or \*9 to raise hand
- ✓ Have a question? Use Q&A, Chat, or “Raise Hand” on the Zoom toolbar.
- ✓ Materials will be distributed after the meeting

# What We Do

The Department of Health Care Policy & Financing administers Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid program), Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) and other health care programs for Coloradans who qualify.

# Our Mission

Improving health care equity, access and outcomes for the people we serve while saving Coloradans money on health care and driving value for Colorado.

# Introductions



**Adela Flores-  
Brennan**  
Medicaid Director,  
Health Policy Office



**Chris Underwood**  
Chief Administrative Officer



**Cristen Bates**  
Office Director & Deputy  
Medicaid Director, Office  
of Medicaid & CHP+  
Behavioral Health  
Initiatives & Coverage

# Agenda

- ✓ Waiver Overview
- ✓ Amendment Components
  - Continuous Coverage
  - Criminal Justice Reentry Services
  - Serious Mental Illness and Serious Emotional Disturbance in an Institution for Mental Disease
- ✓ Next Steps
- ✓ Feedback

# Section 1: Waiver Overview

# What is Medicaid and Health First Colorado?

- ✓ Medicaid is a federal program that is administered by each state
- ✓ **Health First Colorado** is Colorado's Medicaid Program
- ✓ During 2022, approximately 1.6 million (27%) Coloradans were enrolled in Health First Colorado





# Overview: HB23-1300 Continuous Eligibility Medical Coverage

- ✓ **April 2024 Waiver Amendment (authority to implement starting January 2026)**
  - Extending continuous coverage for children to age three
  - Extending 12 months of continuous for adults leaving incarceration from a Department of Corrections facility
  - Automatic Eligibility Renewal for individuals with \$0 income when electronic verifications return no information
  
- ✓ **January 2026 Feasibility Study (no authority to implement)**
  - Continuous coverage for all children for 24 months
  - Continuous coverage for children to age six
- ✓ **Continuous Coverage for adults for 12 and 24 months**
  - Under 33% FPL
  - Experiencing Homelessness
  - On Parole, Community Corrections, or released from a carceral setting
- ✓ **Continuously Coverage for all adults for 12 months**
- ✓ **Health-Related Social Needs - housing and food security**
  - Housing & Nutritional needs
  - Rental Assistance
- ✓ **Health-Related Social Needs - focused populations**
  - perinatal recipients
  - foster care youths, those transitioning out of foster care, and former foster care youth
  - people with substance use disorders
  - high-risk infants & children
  - needs of low-income individuals impacted by natural disasters



**COLORADO**

Department of Health Care  
Policy & Financing

# What is a waiver?

- ✓ Federal rules set minimum standards related to Medicaid and CHP+ eligibility and required benefits
- ✓ **States can request to WAIVE some federal rules** to have more flexibility and offer coverage to more people and cover more services
- ✓ Five year agreement
  - Option for renewal
  - States can amend existing 1115 waivers to ask for additional services
- ✓ Waivers require additional reporting to CMS and an evaluation component to demonstrate the waivers effectiveness

# 1115 Expanding the Substance Use Disorder Continuum of Care Waiver

- ✓ HCPF received Federal approval to cover Substance Use Disorder (SUD) services in Institutions for Mental Disease (IMDs) and other settings through an 1115 SUD Demonstration Waiver
- ✓ CMS Approval: January 1, 2021- December 31, 2025
- ✓ Goals of the 1115 Demonstration
  - Increase treatment options and usage
  - Reduce excess service utilization
  - Reduce overdose and death

# Colorado's 1115 SUD Waiver Amendment (April 2024)

- ✓ Extending continuous Medicaid & CHP+ coverage for children to age three
- ✓ Extending 12 months of continuous Medicaid for adults leaving incarceration from a Department of Corrections facility
- ✓ Prerelease services for adults and youth transitioning from correctional facilities
- ✓ Reimbursement for acute inpatient and residential stays in institutions for mental disease (IMD) for individuals diagnosed with a serious mental illness (SMI) or serious emotional disturbance (SED)

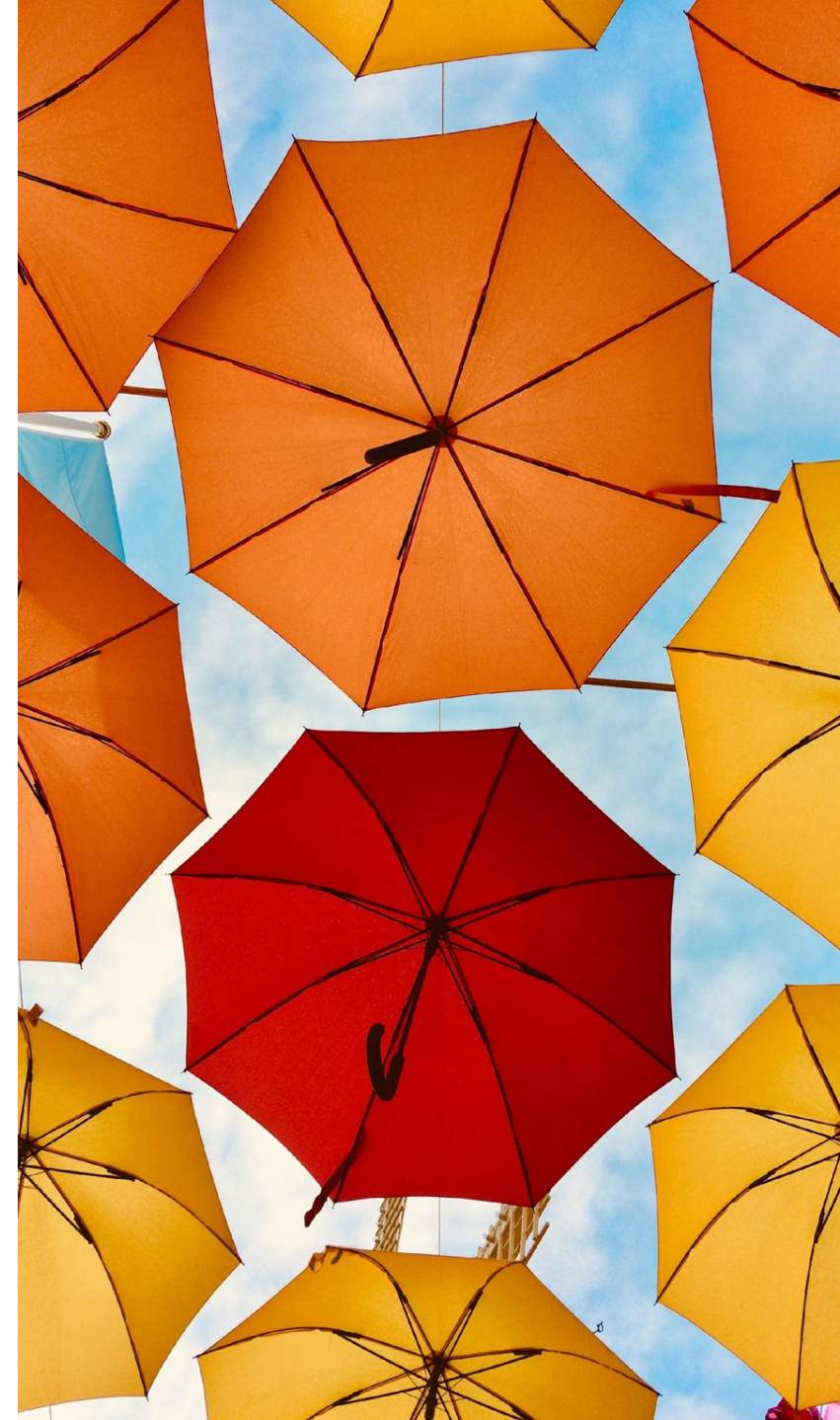
# Section 2: Continuous Coverage

# Vision

- Through Colorado House Bill 23-1300 and the waiver amendment, Colorado aims to improve the health and well-being of Coloradans through consistent access to health care coverage during critical periods in life regardless of income changes

# Proposal

- ✓ **Continuous coverage** for children through age 3
- ✓ Twelve-month **continuous coverage** for adults leaving incarceration from Department of Corrections



# Goals: Continuous coverage for children to age three

This request seeks to:

- ✓ Ensure continuous Medicaid and CHP+ coverage for young children
- ✓ Promote longer-term access to and continuity of physical health care, behavioral health care, dental care and preventive services
- ✓ Combat racial inequalities
- ✓ Improve physical and behavioral health outcomes and well-being for low-income young children

# Goals: Continuous coverage for adults leaving incarceration

This request seeks to:

- ✓ Ensure 12 months of continuous Medicaid coverage for adults leaving incarceration
- ✓ Promote longer-term access to and continuity of physical and behavioral health care and care coordination
- ✓ Combat racial inequalities
- ✓ Improve short and long-term physical and behavioral health outcomes and reduce recidivism for adults leaving the criminal justice system



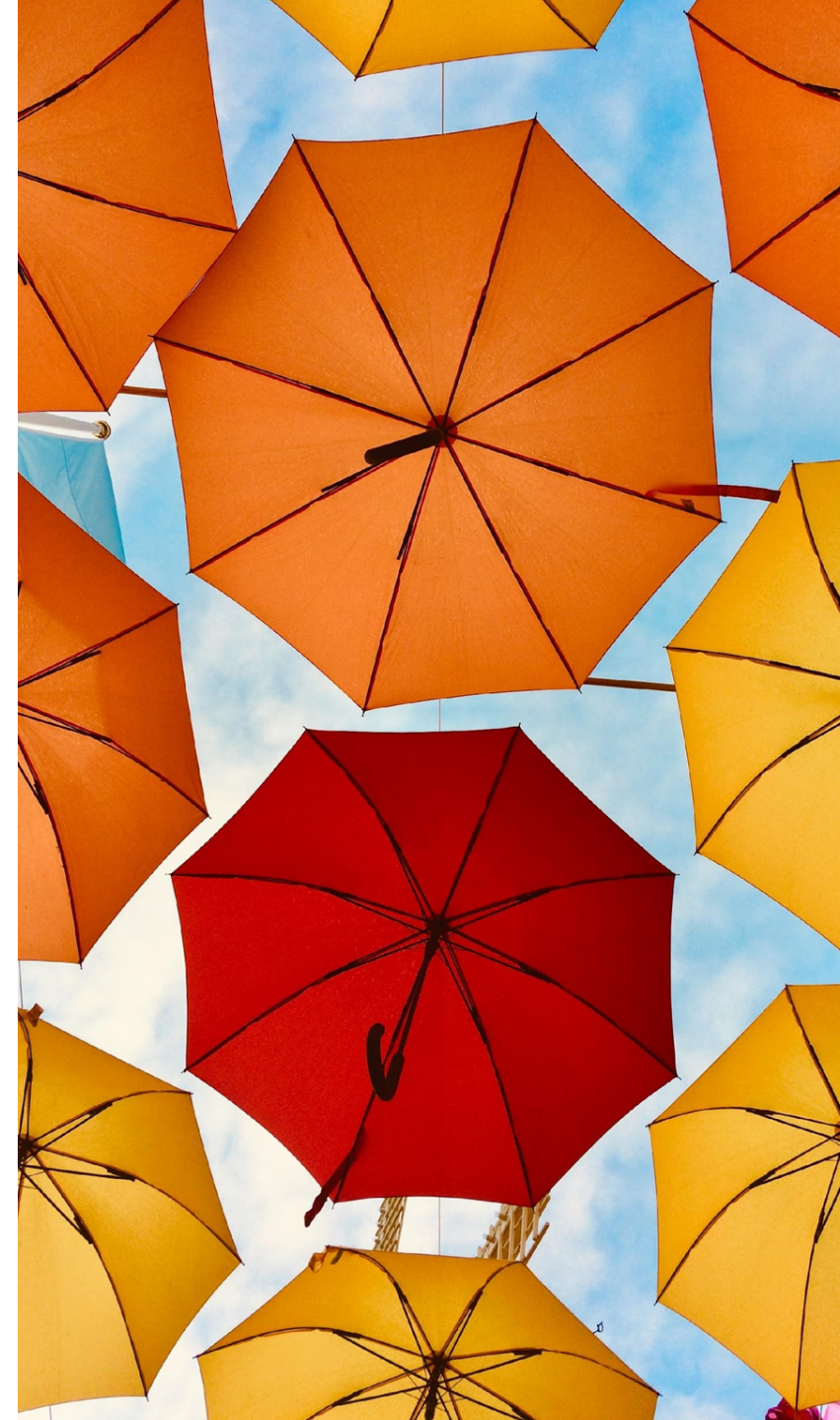
# Section 3: Criminal Justice Reentry Services

# Vision

- Colorado aims to improve health outcomes for individuals and greater health equity for justice involved individuals transitioning back into the community
- Currently prohibited by Inmate Exclusion Policy, need to waive this policy

## Proposal

- ✓ Reentry services for individuals transitioning from the Department of Corrections (DOC) and Division of Youth Services (DYS) facilities



# Goals: Criminal Justice Reentry Services

This request seeks to:

- ✓ Improve health outcomes for individuals with complex or unmet health needs
- ✓ Create greater health equity within the healthcare continuum
- ✓ Reduce the disparities for criminal justice-involved individuals by improving access to quality health care, allowing for successful transitions back to the community

# Coverage: Reentry Services

In April 2023, CMS provided State Medicaid Letter [#23-003](#) provided a roadmap to waive this exclusion with the following specifications:

- ✓ Coverage up to 90 days pre-release and must include
  - Case management,
  - MAT services and accompanying counseling, and
  - 30-day supply of all medication
- ✓ Eligible Facilities: jails, state prisons, and youth detention facilities. States may take a phased approach to adding facilities.

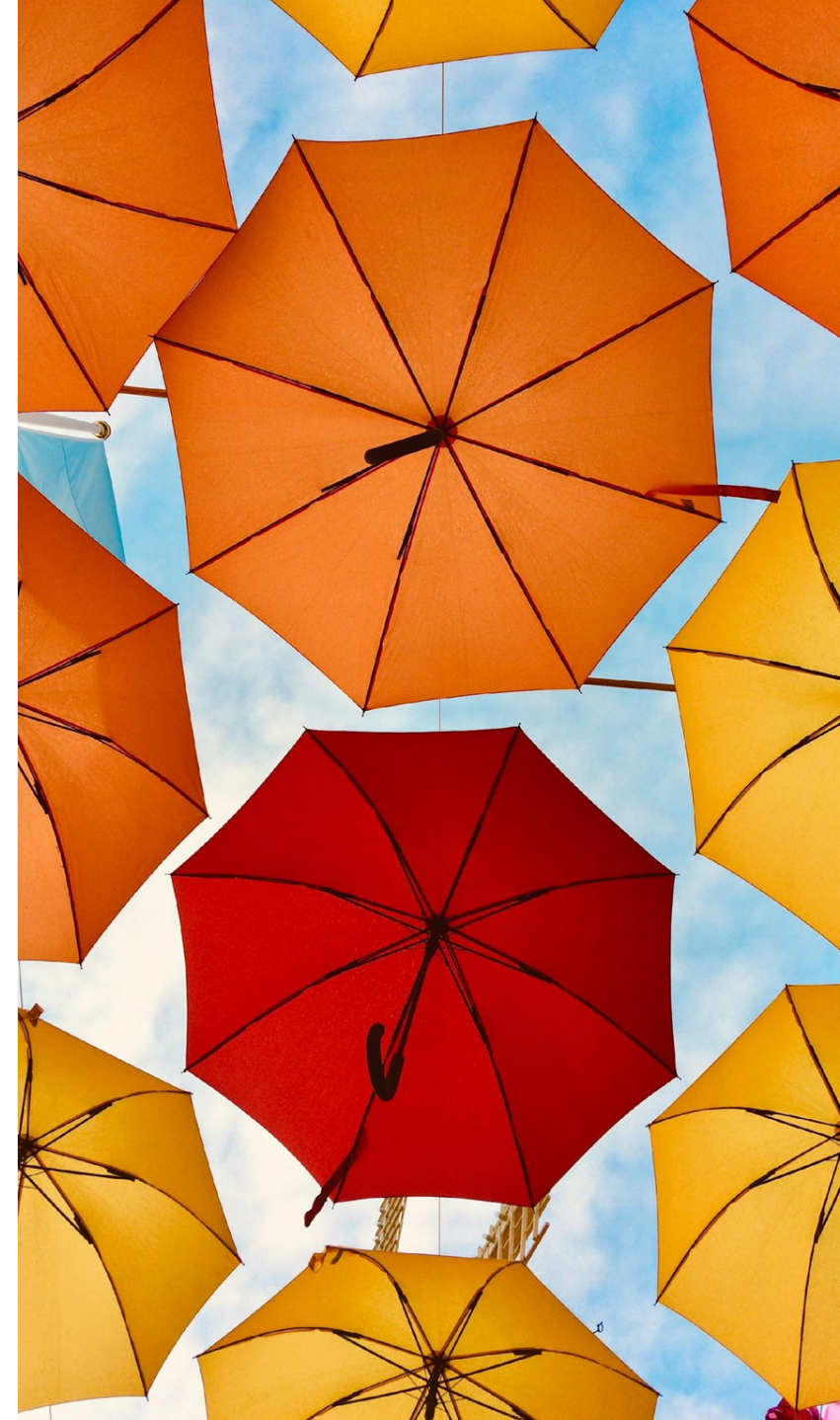
# Section 4: Serious Mental Illness and Serious Emotional Disturbance (SMI & SED) in an Institution for Mental Disease (IMD)

# Vision

- Colorado aims to stabilize access and availability of treatment and speciality care for Coloradans experiencing chronic and complex mental health needs.
- Currently prohibited by “IMD” Exclusion

# Proposal

- ✓ Expand reimbursement for acute inpatient and residential stays in IMDs for individuals diagnosed with a SMI or SED to cover up to 15 days regardless of total days



# Goals: Serious Mental Illness and Serious Emotional Disturbance in an IMD

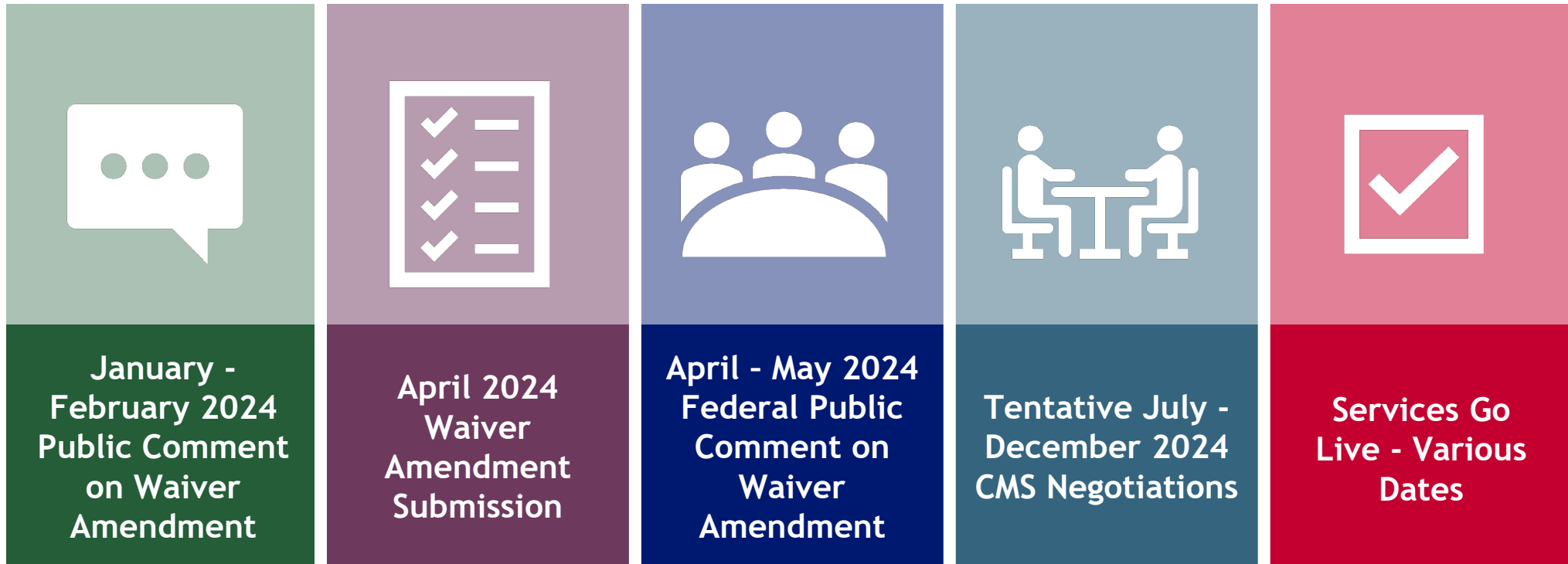
This request seeks to:

- ✓ Stabilize access and availability of treatment for individuals with SMI and SED
- ✓ Allow for reimbursement for up to 15 days a calendar month for all members stays, despite total length of a care episode
- ✓ Reduce utilization and lengths of stay in emergency departments
- ✓ Reduce preventable readmissions to acute care hospitals and residential settings

# Section 5: Next Steps & Timeline



# 1115 Waiver Amendment Timeline



# Next Steps

- ✓ Repeat of this stakeholder meeting on Nov 29 (5:00-7:00 PM MT)
- ✓ Post Stakeholder Survey
  - [Respond by December 8](#)
- ✓ Stakeholder Meeting: Serious Mental Illness and Serious Emotional Disturbance (SMI & SED) in an IMD
  - November 30, 2023 @ 2pm MT
  - [Meeting link here](#)
- ✓ Stakeholder Formal Feedback Process
  - Public and Tribal Comment Period (Jan-Feb 2024)
- ✓ HB 23-1300
  - Feasibility Study due January 2026

# Feasibility Study

- ✓ HB 23-1300 includes an additional feasibility study component to be completed by January 1, 2026.
- ✓ The Department will assess how to improve the Health-Related Social Needs (HRSN) of Health First Colorado and CHP+ members.
- ✓ This study seeks to understand HRSN of priority populations, including housing and nutrition, and includes but is not limited to the needs of:
  - Perinatal recipients,
  - Foster care youths, those transitioning out of foster care, and former foster care youth,
  - People with substance use disorders,
  - High-risk infants & children, and
  - Needs of low-income individuals impacted by natural disasters.



# Open Forum for Comments & Questions



# Contact Info

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