

Medical Assistance Rule Concerning Medicaid Sustainability Initiative Changes - CFC and Community Connector MSB 25-11-06-B

February 13, 2026

Thank you!

- Thank you to all of our stakeholders for providing thoughtful feedback on the policy changes and rule language.
- Thank you to the Board for allowing us to present a preview last month.

We will provide a detailed summary of stakeholder engagement later in the presentation.

Overview of Rule Revision

- Implement language for the Executive Order initiatives.
 - Unit limitations for Community Connector;
 - Age-appropriate authorization of Community Connector;
 - Soft caps for Personal Care, Homemaker, and Health Maintenance Activities; and
 - Reduce Cap on Weekly Homemaker Hours for Legally Responsible Persons from 10 hours per week to 5 hours per week.
- Bolster other sections in rule to ensure clarity for stakeholders and consistent implementation of the initiatives by Case Managers.
- **NOTE: This rule revision no longer includes the 56 hour per caregiver per member limit that was mentioned in the rule preview.**

Why is this an Emergency Rule?

- Executive order signed October 31, 2025 - Savings required starting this FY.
- Case Managers service plan 60-90 days in advance. For an April 1st certification start date, service planning begins in January/February.
 - We need regulation in place at the time of service planning for appeals.
- Approval deadlines required to implement on time:
 - January/February 2026 - Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) approval on waiver and State Plan Amendments
 - January 29, 2025 - Joint Budget Committee approval via Supplemental Hearing
 - Medical Service Board approval for rules effective in February
 - Emergency Rule: Rule due February 2 - emergency adoption February 13th
 - In order to have met the regular rule timeline: Rule due October 1 - initial adoption November 14, 2025 for a February 14, 2026 effective date

Overview of Stakeholder Engagement

We made changes based on the feedback of 49 stakeholders. A snapshot of these changes include:

- Added details about the exception process to exceed service caps
- Defined the Age-Appropriate Task Standards and Task Standards for Adults
- Modified language around the appropriate use of the Community Connector Benefit

We will continue stakeholder engagement as we head to permanent adoption.

Reduce Community Connector Service Limit and Implement Age-Appropriateness for the Community Connector Service

Community Connector Service 8.7514

What is Community Connector & Who Provides it?

Community Connector

1:1 support to help a child or youth build the skills and relationships needed to participate in typical community life, using real community settings as the learning environment and tying the work to measurable goals in the support plan. Available as a 1915(c) HCBS Waiver Service on the Children's Extensive Support Waiver and Children's Habilitation Residential Program Waiver.

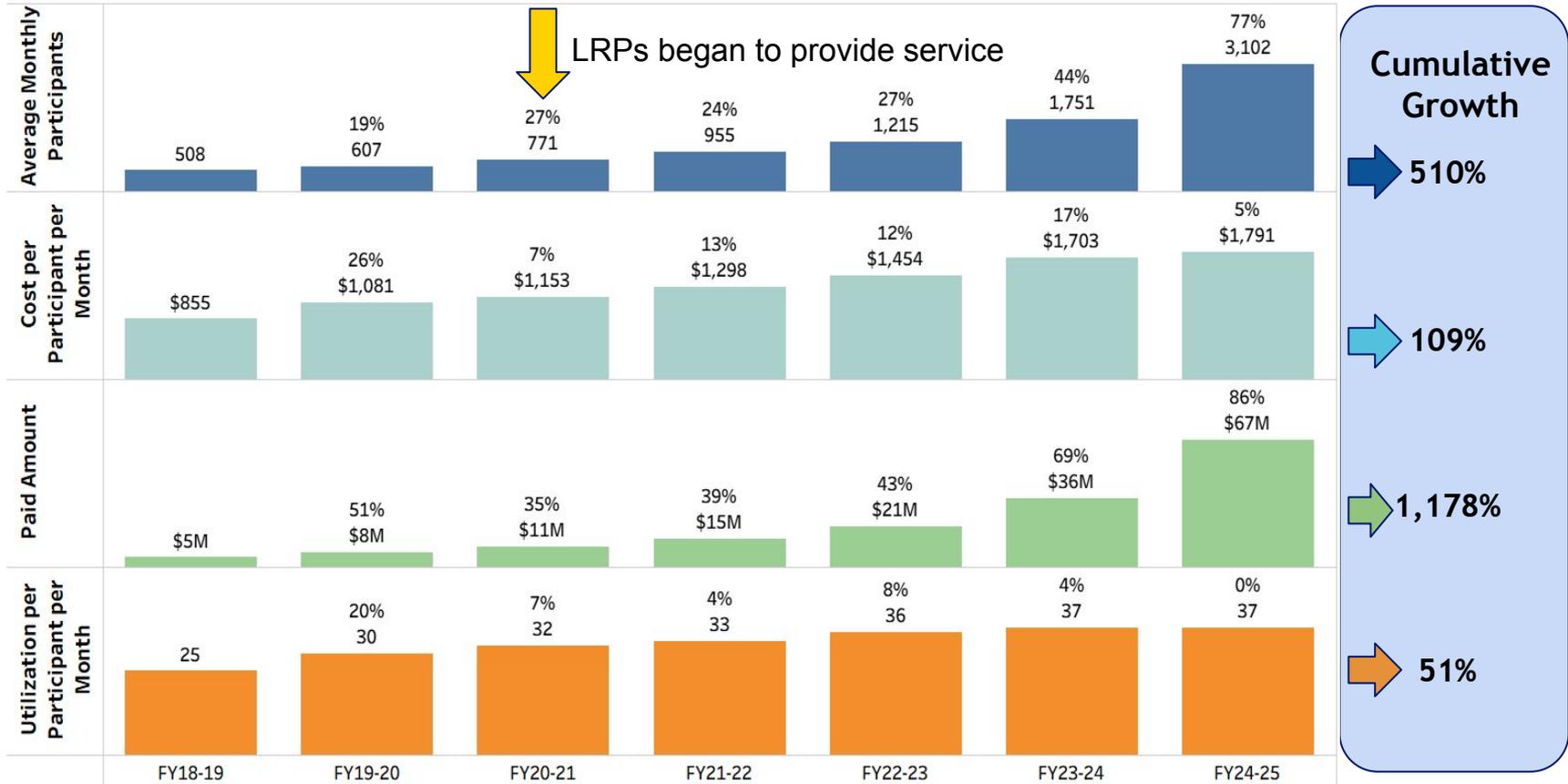
Provider Quals

Must be 18+, complete State-required training, follow the service plan, document services, and have the skills to support people with developmental disabilities. Parents serving as providers must focus on skill building, not routine parental care.

Community Connector in Other States

- Only 3 other states have a similar service: Kentucky, New York, and Minnesota.
- Kentucky is the only other state that allows a parent/Legally Responsible Person (LRP) to provide the service like Colorado.
- All other states require an assessed exceptional need to access the service.
- Colorado is better aligning this service with other states while still allowing parents/LRPs to provide the service.

Community Connector Service



Inappropriate Utilization of Community Connector

- Oftentimes, it is authorized for activities that fall within what is expected of a parent or legal guardian.
- The service:
 - Is not a default service
 - Is not entertainment
 - Is not supervision
 - Is not to be provided with other children under the supervision of the paid staff at the same time
 - Is not a substitute for other waiver or State Plan services
 - Is not automatically authorized at the maximum
 - Does not replace parental responsibility
 - Does not supplant school based community integration and enrichment activities

Rule Changes to Address Community Connector Utilization

- In the exclusions section, we have included language for the unit cap and the exceptions process.
- To ensure appropriate utilization of the service and consistency across Case Management implementation, we have made the following changes:
 - Created and implemented definition for Parent or Legal Guardian Responsibility,
 - Created a tighter definition for the service, and
 - Clarified the language in the inclusions and exclusions sections.

Implement Soft Caps on Certain Home and Community-Based Services

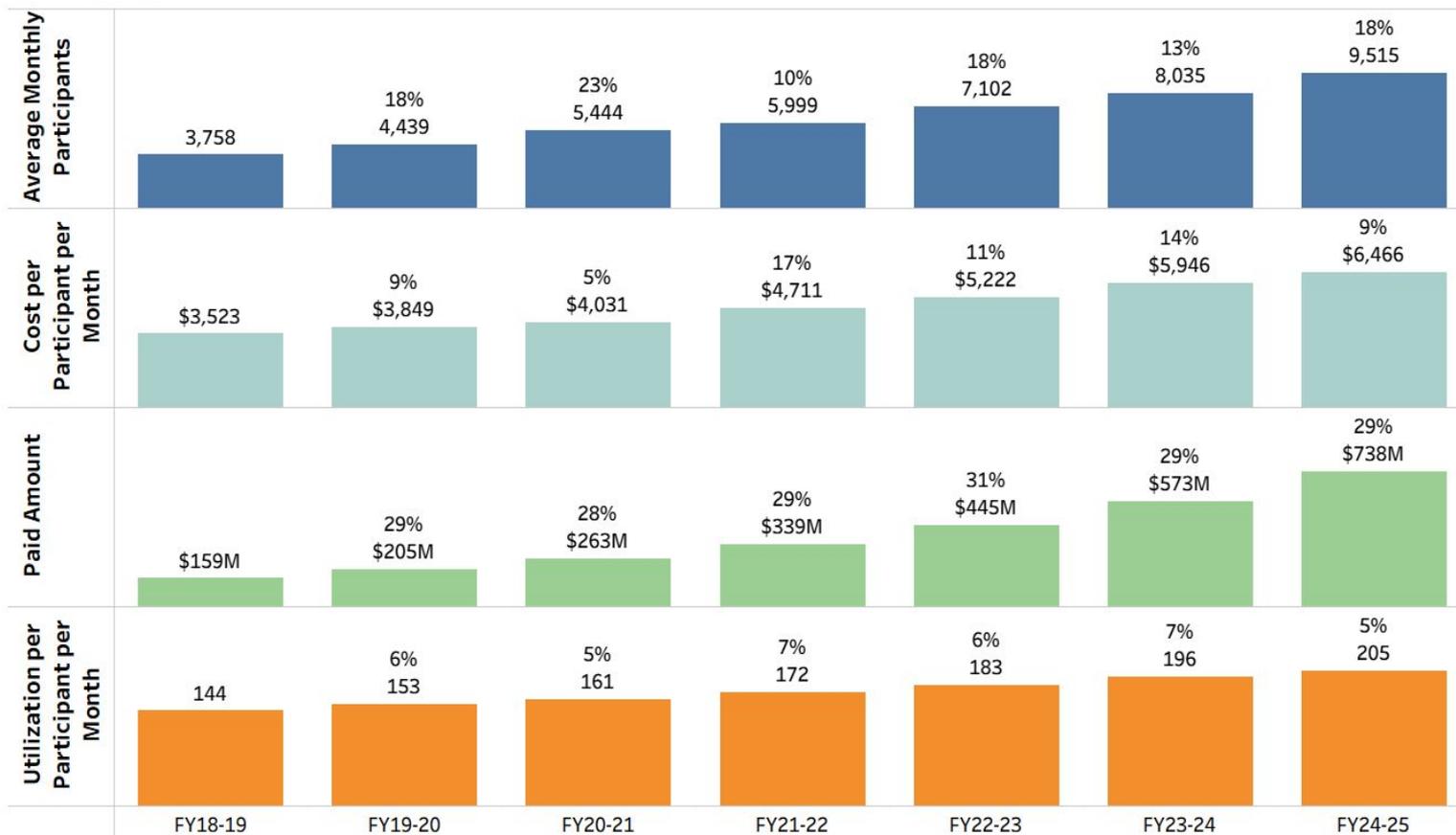
Changes to Consumer Directed Attendant Support Services (8.7515), Health Maintenance Activities (8.7523), Homemaker Services (8.7527), In-Home Support Services (8.7528), and Personal Care (8.7538)

Overview of Benefits

Traditional Agency-Based Care	In-Home Support Services (IHSS)	Consumer Directed Attendant Support Services (CDASS)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Personal Care● Homemaker Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Personal Care● Homemaker Services● Health Maintenance Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Personal Care● Homemaker Services● Health Maintenance Activities

These benefits are available all service delivery methods through a new program called Community First Choice (CFC) which was implemented July 1, 2025.

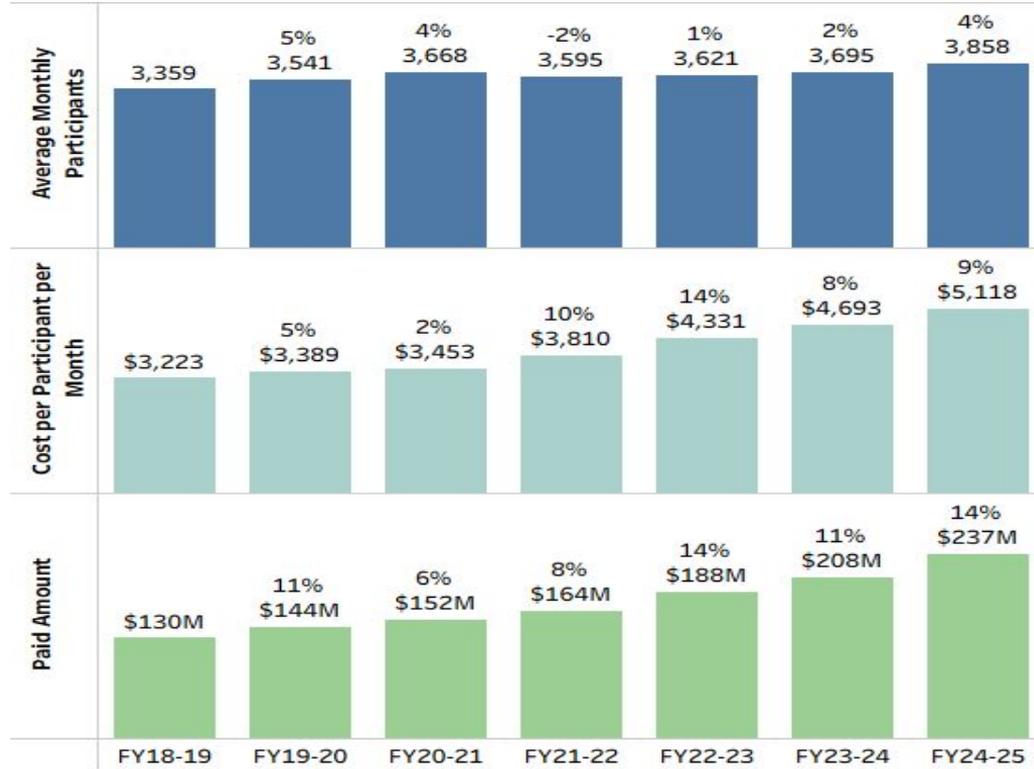
In-Home Support Services



Cumulative Growth

- 154%
- 84%
- 367%
- 43%

Consumer-Directed Attendant Support Services



Cumulative Growth

- 15%
- 59%
- 82%

Personal Care & Homemaker

Non-Consumer Directed



Cumulative Growth

→ -4%

→ 101%

→ 104%

→ 34%



Soft Unit Caps for Services

Service	Annual Limit (units)	Approx. Daily Hours	Estimated Percentage of Members impacted
Personal Care	10,000 units	~6.5 hours/day	6%
Homemaker	4,500 units	~3 hours/day	10%
Health Maintenance Activities (HMA)	19,000 units	~13 hours/day	7%

Not all members will utilize all authorized hours. Members are able to request an exception to continue to receive hours above the limit.

Rule Changes to Implement Soft Caps

- We have included language for the soft caps on Personal Care, Homemaker, Health Maintenance Activities, CDASS, and IHSS.
- Included exception process language to exceed the cap in the Community First Choice section.

Reduce Existing Legally Responsible Person Homemaker Weekly Limit

Homemaker Services (8.7527)

Homemaker Costs & Policy Impact

Fiscal Year	Total Homemaker Expenditures	Year over Year Percent Change
FY 2018-19	\$45,765,407.18	19.00%
FY 2019-20	\$53,790,859.59	17.54%
FY 2020-21	\$62,911,598.98	16.96%
FY 2021-22	\$71,544,224.11	13.72%
FY 2022-23	\$89,114,542.94	24.56%
FY 2023-24	\$117,054,785.29	31.35%
FY 2024-25	\$174,099,143.89	48.73%

Base wage increases began in 2021 and have impacted homemaker costs in following years



PHE flexibility allowed for legally responsible persons (LRP) to provide Homemaker services.



Continued allowance of LRPs to provide homemaker services, and continued increases to CES waiver enrollment for access to homemaker for young children.

Rule Changes for Legally Responsible Person Homemaker Hours Initiative

- Updated the annual units for reimbursement when Homemaker is provided by a Legally Responsible Person.
- Clarified the Legally Responsible Person definition to include a common law spouse and does not include the parent or legal guardian of an adult.
- Clarified that there can only be two Legally Responsible Persons that are paid to provide Homemaker Services.

Other changes that align regulation with current practice to improve enforceability and consistency on already existing expectations

HCBS Benefits and Services Requirements: Definitions (8.7502), Consumer Directed Attendant Support Services (8.7515), Health Maintenance Activities (8.7523), Homemaker Services (8.7527), In-Home Support Services (8.7528), and Personal Care (8.7538)

Age-Appropriate Task Standards for Children and Task Standards for Adults Definitions

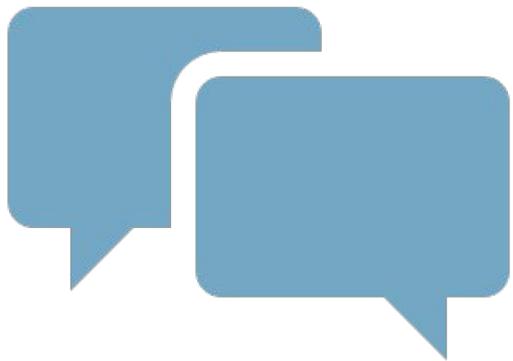
- This rule creates definitions for the Age-Appropriate Task Standards for Children and Task Standards for Adults are tools currently in use by Case Managers.
 - Further clarification on Emergency Rule 25-10-23-A (Approved November 14th) and permanent rule MSB 25-11-23-C (Approved January 9th).
- This rule implements these definitions throughout the services and service delivery methods to which they apply.

Clarify Definitions

- We have also revised sections of these rules to assist Case Managers in implementing the caps in a consistent manner. Those changes included:
 - Moving the extraordinary care definition from the CDASS section and into the HCBS Services Definitions section.
 - Implementing the definition of parent or legal guardian responsibility.

Remove Nurse Assessor and Skilled Care Acuity Language

- Since its launch, the Nurse Assessor Program faced numerous operational challenges which caused issues with members prior authorizations and services.
- On December 22, 2025, HCPF announced the immediate ending of the Nurse Assessor program.
- This rule removes the Nurse Assessor Program language from Health Maintenance Activities, aligns the definition of Health Maintenance Activities with statute and replaces the Nurse Assessor language with the current practice for assessing the service.



Questions?