



Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver Amendments Fact Sheet

August 2026

The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) intends to submit 1915(c) waiver amendments to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for the following Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers:

- Brain Injury (BI)
- Children's Extensive Support (CES)
- Children's Habilitation Residential Program (CHRP)
- Complementary and Integrative Health (CIH)
- Community Mental Health Supports (CMHS)
- Children with Complex Health Needs (CwCHN)
- Developmental Disabilities (DD)
- Elderly, Blind, and Disabled (EBD)
- Supported Living Services (SLS)

HCPF will accept public comments from August 6, 2026, through September 4, 2026. HCPF intends to submit the amendments to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on September 11, 2026. HCPF will request an effective date of January 1, 2027 for the amendments.

Explanations of changes within the waiver applications can be found below.

Public Comments will be accepted from August 6, 2026 through September 4, 2026.

Summary of Changes

Discontinue Automatic Enrollments into DD Waiver

HCPF is discontinuing automatic enrollment into the DD waiver for youth enrolled in the CES or CHRP waivers. Youth who are served through child welfare services and turning 18 years of age will continue to have the option to request enrollment into the DD Waiver through the established Youth Transition process, without having to go on the waiting list.

These changes impact the following waiver(s): DD

Appendix B Updates: Post-Eligibility Treatment of Income (PETI)

HCPF is updating Appendix B to accurately reflect how we collect PETI, by adding the dollar amount to Appendix B-5-b and updating language around spousal impoverishment rules.

These changes impact the following waiver(s): BI, CMHS, EBD

Appendix H Updates

HCPF is updating Appendix H to describe how Colorado's existing 1915(c) Quality Improvement Strategy, including Program and Quality Review processes, Critical Incident Reporting System monitoring, case management documentation review, and HCBS Quality Measure Set reporting, will be applied to Money Follows the Person (MFP) members transitioning from institutional settings to home and community-based services to monitor transition quality, identify and mitigate health and welfare risks, resolve critical incidents, and use data trends to drive remediation and quality improvement.

These changes impact the following waiver(s): BI, CES, CHRP, CIH, CMHS, CwCHN, DD, EBD, SLS

Adaptive Therapeutic Rec Equipment and Fees SLS Waiver Alignment

HCPF is updating the SLS waiver language to align with the existing CES waiver language for Adaptive Therapeutic Recreational Equipment and Fees. This update would expand allowable services to include adaptive therapeutic recreational equipment specifically designed to meet the recreational needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, consistent with the CES waiver. This would also establish a clear annual service limitation of \$1,000 per plan year for Adaptive Therapeutic Recreational Equipment and Fees under the SLS waiver, mirroring the existing CES waiver cap.

These changes impact the following waiver(s): SLS

Assistive Technology Updates

HCPF is proposing changes to the Assistive Technology (AT) benefit in the CES and SLS waivers. The changes would establish a yearly limit of \$600 for Assistive Technology within the existing combined \$10,000 waiver-cycle limit for Assistive Technology, Home Modifications, and Vehicle Modifications. The proposal also clarifies that Assistive Technology may include items that support a member's therapeutic, sensory, or developmental needs related to their disability. In addition, the amendment aligns the BI Waiver Assistive Technology benefit with the Assistive Technology benefits available under the CES and SLS waivers. These changes are intended to improve consistency across all three waivers, promote responsible stewardship of waiver funding, and continue providing medically necessary services while preserving access to other covered waiver services.

These changes impact the following waiver(s): BI, CES, SLS

Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies Updates

HCPF is updating the Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies (SMES) benefit. The proposed changes would establish a \$2,500 soft cap per device for SMES equipment. A soft cap is a per-device spending limit that may be exceeded with HCPF approval. Under the proposal, equipment and supplies must be medically necessary, address a diagnosed medical condition, and be the most cost-effective option that safely and effectively meets the member's needs. These changes are intended to promote consistent application of the benefit, ensure responsible use of waiver funding, and continue covering medically necessary equipment and supplies that help members live safely at home and in their communities.

These changes impact the following waiver(s): BI, CES, DD, SLS

Updating Spending Limits

HCPF is updating the current waiver total spending limitation in Appendix B Individual Cost Limit and C Prospective Individual Budget Amount to reflect the current limits on the [Provider Rates and Fee Schedule](#).

These changes impact the following waiver(s): CES, SLS

Service Plan Annual Limit (SPAL) - Updating Level of Support Language

During the transitional year from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, participants in the HCBS-SLS waiver continued to have their assigned Service Plan Authorization Limit (SPAL) apply to their service planning throughout their service plan certification period. The SPAL was eliminated and will no longer apply to their next CSR. HCPF is updating level of support language and the limits on sets of services in Appendix C to indicate that there is no longer a limit on a set of services as the SPAL was fully eliminated as of July 1, 2026.

These changes impact the following waiver(s): SLS

Performance Measure Updates

HCPF is removing performance measure A.27: "Number and percent of deliverables submitted by the Wellness Education Benefit (WEB) contractor that are reviewed by HCPF demonstrating performance of delegated functions" and updating the Level of Care (LOC) screening performance measure in Appendix D to better align the use of the LOC Screen to that in Appendix B performance measures

These changes impact the following waiver(s): BI, CES, CHRP, CIH, CMHS, CwCHN, DD, EBD, SLS

Remove Recovery Audit Contractor (RAC)

HCPF is updating all HCBS waivers to remove references to the RAC Contractor in Appendix A and I. These references are no longer applicable because HCPF does not use the RAC for HCBS waivers.

These changes impact the following waiver(s): BI, CES, CHRP, CIH, CMHS, CwCHN, DD, EBD, SLS)

Update Post Payment Review (PPR)

HCPF is updating Post Payment Review (PPR) language to align with current HCPF processes and replace outdated terminology.

These changes impact the following waiver(s): BI, CES, CHRP, CIH, CMHS, CwCHN, DD, EBD, SLS

Update Respite Language

HCPF is adding age-appropriate language for service delivery in Respite

These changes impact the following waiver(s): CES, CHRP, CwCHN

Provider Qualifications Update

HCPF is removing the requirement for a Home Care Agency Class A from the Provider Qualifications License for Supported Living Program (SLP) and Transitional Living Program (TLP). SLP and TLP providers are required to hold an Assisted Living Residence (ALR) license. This update aligns the waiver language with provider licensing requirements.

These changes impact the following waiver(s): BI

Appendix J Updates

HCPF is updating rates in Appendix J to reflect the current [Provider Rates and Fee Schedule](#).

These changes impact the following waiver(s): BI, CES, CHRP, CIH, CMHS, CwCHN, DD, EBD, SLS

HCPF is updating DD, EBD, and SLS unduplicated counts and service utilizers to reflect the DD discontinuance automatic enrollment policy change.

HCPF is updating the Community Connector units/user to reflect recent policy changes

These changes impact the following waiver(s): CES, CHRP

Public Comment Opportunity

HCPF will post drafts of the waiver amendments on the [HCBS Public Comment Opportunities website](#) for public comment.

- HCPF will make available a draft of the waiver amendments for a 30-day public comment period from August 6, 2026 through September 4, 2026.
- HCPF commits to incorporating comments, concerns, and suggestions when and wherever possible.
- All comments and responses will be recorded in a listening log that will be posted on the HCPF's website after the public comment period ends.

To request a paper or electronic copy of the waiver amendments including the full draft waiver and/or to provide public comment, please do so by:

- Phone: 303-866-3684
- Email: HCPF_LTSS.PublicComment@state.co.us
- Postal Mail: HCPF - 303 E. 17th Ave., Suite 1100, Denver, CO 80203,
ATTN: HCBS Waiver Amendments
- Fax: 303-866-2786 ATTN: HCBS Waiver Amendments