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State/Territory Name: CO

State Plan Amendment (SPA) #: 26-0003

This file contains the following documents in the order listed:

- 1) Approval Letter
- 2) CMS 179 Form/Summary Form (with 179-like data)
- 3) Approved SPA Pages

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

601 E. 12th St., Room 355

Kansas City, Missouri 64106

Medicaid and CHIP Operations Group

July 24, 2026

Adela Flores-Brennan
State Medicaid Director
Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
303 E. 17th Avenue, Suite 1100
Denver, CO 80203

RE: Colorado State Plan Amendment (SPA) – 26-0003

Dear Director Flores-Brennan:

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) reviewed your Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) submitted under transmittal number (TN) 26-0003. This amendment modifies the effective date of the State Plan Authority that defines and authorizes reimbursement for Community Health Workers (CHW) by Health First Colorado as providers of CHW services from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2028.

Additionally, this SPA acknowledges that the CHW services previously approved with an effective date of July 1, 2025, were never operationally implemented, and no CHW services were rendered to Medicaid beneficiaries under that authority.

We conducted our review of your submittal according to statutory requirements in sections Section 1905(a)(13)(C) of the Social Security Act. This letter informs you that Colorado's Medicaid SPA TN CO-26-0003 was approved on July 24, 2026, with an effective date of January 1, 2028.

Enclosed are copies of Form CMS-179 and approved SPA pages to be incorporated into the Colorado State Plan.

If you have any additional questions or need further assistance, please contact Keri Rosenbloom Toback at (312) 353-1754 or via email at Keri.Toback@cms.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Falecia M. Smith
Acting Director, Division of Program Operations

Enclosures

Director Flores-Brennan

cc: Sage Hart, CMCS
Lydia Briggs, CMCS
Stacey Steiner, CMCS
Karen Hatcher, CMCS
Keri Rosenbloom, CMCS
Erica Schale, HCPF
Rachel Larson, HCPF
Julie Masters, HCPF
Jennifer Swaisgood, HCPF
Russell Zigler, HCPF
Jessica Farnen, HCPF

**TRANSMITTAL AND NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF
STATE PLAN MATERIAL
FOR: CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES**

1. TRANSMITTAL NUMBER

2 6 — 0 0 0 3

2. STATE

CO3. PROGRAM IDENTIFICATION: TITLE OF THE SOCIAL
SECURITY ACT

XIX



XXI

TO: CENTER DIRECTOR
CENTERS FOR MEDICAID & CHIP SERVICES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

4. PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE

January 1, 2028

5. FEDERAL STATUTE/REGULATION CITATION

Social Security Act, Section 1905(a)(13)(C)

6. FEDERAL BUDGET IMPACT (Amounts in WHOLE dollars)

a. FFY 2026 \$ 0b. FFY 2027 \$ 0

7. PAGE NUMBER OF THE PLAN SECTION OR ATTACHMENT

Supplement to Attachment 3.1-A – Limitations to Care and
Services – Item 13.c– Preventive Services (Pages 4-5 of 5) Pages 1-3
~~Attachment 4.19-B – Methods and Standards for Establishing~~
~~Payment Rates Other Types of Care – Item 13.e – Preventive~~
~~Services (Page 2 of 2)~~
Attachment 4.19-B Introduction Pages 1-3 (KMRT)

8. PAGENUMBER OF THE SUPERSEDED PLAN SECTION
OR ATTACHMENT (If Applicable)

Supplement to Attachment 3.1-A – Limitations to Care and
Services – Item 13.c– Preventive Services (Pages 4-5 of
5) (CO-25-0041) Pages 1-3 (CO 24-0046)
~~Attachment 4.19-B – Methods and Standards – Item 13.e –~~
~~Preventive Services (CO-25-0041)~~
Attachment 4.19-B Introduction Pages 1-3 (KMRT)

9. SUBJECT OF AMENDMENT

This proposed State Plan Amendment changes the effective date of the SPA from January 1, 2026 to January 1, 2028 that
defines and authorizes reimbursement for Community Health Workers (CHW) by Health First Colorado as providers of CHW
services.

10. GOVERNOR'S REVIEW (Check One)



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE REPORTED NO COMMENT



COMMENTS OF GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ENCLOSED



NO REPLY RECEIVED WITHIN 45 DAYS OF SUBMITTAL



OTHER, AS SPECIFIED:

Governor's letter dated
5 April 2023

11. SIGNATURE OF STATE AGENCY OFFICIAL

12. TYPED NAME

Adela Flores-Brennan

13. TITLE

Medicaid Director

14. DATE SUBMITTED

April 27, 2026

15. RETURN TO

Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
303 E. 17th Avenue, Suite 1100
Denver, CO 80203

Attn: Jessica Farnen

FOR CMS USE ONLY

16. DATE RECEIVED

April 27, 2026

17. DATE APPROVED

July 24, 2026

PLAN APPROVED - ONE COPY ATTACHED

18. EFFECTIVE DATE OF APPROVED MATERIAL

January 1, 2028

19. SIGNATURE OF APPROVING

20. TYPED NAME OF APPROVING OFFICIAL

Falecia M. Smith

21. TITLE OF APPROVING OFFICIAL

Acting Director, Division of Program Operations

22. REMARKS

Pen and Ink Change authorized by Colorado on 7/21/26 to strike submission of Attachment 4.19B and instead include 4.19B Introduction
Pages 1-3 in both Section 7 and Section 8. - Keri Rosebloom Toback (KMRT)

Pen and Ink change to Supplement to Attachment 3.1-A
approved by state on 7/24/26.

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

STATE OF COLORADO

Supplement to Attachment 3.1-A
Page 1 of 3

LIMITATIONS TO CARE AND SERVICES-PREVENTIVE SERVICES

4. Community Health Workers

Effective January 1, 2028, Health First Colorado members are eligible to receive Community Health Worker (CHW) services. Community Health Worker services are preventive health services, as defined in 42 CFR 440.130(c), to prevent disease, disability, and other health conditions or their progression; to prolong life; and promote physical and behavioral health and efficiency. Community Health Worker services must be recommended by a physician or other licensed practitioner of the healing arts acting within their scope of authorized practice under State law. CHWs are trusted members of their community who help address chronic conditions, preventive health care needs, and health-related social needs.

a. Covered Services

CHW covered services include:

1. Health System Navigation and Resource Coordination: Includes helping to engage, re-engage, or ensure member-led follow up in primary care, routine preventive care, adherence to treatment plans, and/or self-management of chronic conditions, including assisting beneficiaries to access covered services and other community resources necessary to promote health, address health care barriers and health related social needs.
2. Health Promotion and Health Coaching: Provides information and training to members that enables them to make positive contributions to their health status. Health Promotion and Coaching includes screening for health-related social needs, setting goals and creating an action plan, and providing information and/or coaching.
3. Health Education and Training: Train and/or increase the member's awareness of methods and measures that have been proven effective in avoiding illness and/or lessening its effects. The content of education must be consistent with established or recognized healthcare standards.

b. Provider Qualifications

TN No. 26-0003
Supersedes TN No. 24-0046

Approval Date July 24, 2026
Effective Date January 1, 2028

Community Health Worker services may be provided by the following types of qualified individuals:

1. Community Health Workers are required to obtain credentialing through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). Credentialing includes mastery of the following core competencies: community assessment, engagement, and capacity building, individual assessment and advocacy, effective communication, cultural responsiveness and mediation, education to promote healthy behavior change, care coordination, use of public health concepts and approaches, and professional skills and conduct. To receive a Community Health Worker credential and be placed on the CDPHE Community Health Worker Registry, an individual must:
 - i. Participate in a CDPHE-recognized Community Health Worker Training program, and
 - ii. Complete and pass the state Community Health Worker Assessment.

OR

- iii. Must have 2,000 hours (one year of Full time Equivalency of Community Health Worker experience) within the past five years;
 - a. Requirements for work experience documentation include:
 1. Complete documentation showing examples of work experience aligning with each of Colorado's Core Community Health Worker Competencies as defined by CDPHE;
 2. Signature or attestation from at least one supervisor on this documentation;
 3. Signature to attest to agreeing to meet National CHW Ethical Standards.
- iv. Complete and pass the state Community Health Worker Assessment.

OR

If credentialed in another state that has reciprocity with Colorado, CDPHE will recognize the credentials without having to complete the assessment.

2. Community Health Representatives (CHRs) are to obtain credentials suitable to their tribal CHR requirements. Authority for the CHR program can be found in the Indian Health Care Improvement Act at 25 U.S.C. §1616. To receive a Community Health Representative credential, an individual must:
 - i. Be placed on the Community Health Worker registry. Community Health Representatives in tribal communities will be placed on the Community Health Worker registry, based on their current training; and
 - ii. Complete the application to be on Colorado's Community Health Worker registry. Current and future CHRs will complete the application to be on Colorado's Community Health Worker registry via the appropriate online platform. Relevant CHR training will need to be uploaded. CDPHE will review. Upon approval, individuals will be listed on the registry

c. Limitations

One unit is equal to 30 minutes. Medicaid members are eligible for up to 4 units of CHW services per day and 16 units per month.

STATE PLAN UNDER TITLE XIX OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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Attachment 4.19-B
Introduction
Page 1 of 3

METHODS AND STANDARDS FOR ESTABLISHING PAYMENT RATES-
OTHER TYPES OF CARE

Effective Dates for Reimbursement Rates for Specified Services

Reimbursement rates for the services listed below on this Attachment 4.19-B introduction page are effective for services provided on or after the corresponding effective date. All payment rates can be found on the official website of the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing at <https://www.colorado.gov/hcpf/provider-rates-fee-schedule>

Service	Attachment	Effective Date
3. Laboratory and Radiology Services	Attachment 4.19-B	July 1, 2024
4.b. Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Services	Attachment 4.19-B, Page 1 of 1	July 1, 2024
4.c. Family Planning	Attachment 4.19-B	July 1, 2024
4.d. Tobacco Cessation Counseling for Pregnant Women	Attachment 4.19-B	July 1, 2024
5.a.2.a. Physician Services – Comprehensive fee schedule	Attachment 4.19-B	July 1, 2024
5.a.2.b. Physician Services – Alternative Payment Model Code Set	Attachment 4.19-B	July 1, 2024
5.b. Medical and Surgical Services Furnished by a Dentist	Attachment 4.19-B, Page 1 of 1	July 1, 2024
6.d. Services Provided by Non-Physician Practitioners	Attachment 4.19-B	July 1, 2024
7.A.-B. Home Health Care Services	Attachment 4.19-B, Page 1 of 7	July 1, 2024
7.C. Durable Medical Equipment	Attachment 4.19-B, Pages 2a and 2b of 7	July 1, 2024
8. Private Duty Nursing Services	Attachment 4.19-B	July 1, 2024

TN No. 26-0003

Approval Date: July 24, 2026

Supersedes TN No. 24-0016

Effective Date: January 1, 2028

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METHODS AND STANDARDS FOR ESTABLISHING PAYMENT RATES-
OTHER TYPES OF CARE

Effective Dates for Reimbursement Rates for Specified Services

Service	Attachment	Effective Date
9. Clinic Services	Attachment 4.19-B, Page 1-3 of 4	July 1, 2024
10. Dental Services	Attachment 4.19-B, Page 1 of 3	July 1, 2024
11. Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, and Audiology Services	Attachment 4.19-B	July 1, 2024
12.b. Dentures	Attachment 4.19-B	July 1, 2024
12.c. Prosthetics	Attachment 4.19-B	July 1, 2024
12.d. Eyeglasses and Contact Lenses	Attachment 4.19-B	July 1, 2024
13.c. Preventive Services - Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) and Doula Services	Attachment 4.19-B	July 1, 2024
13.c. Community Health Workers (CHW)	Attachment 4.19-B	January 1, 2028
13.d. Rehabilitative Services: Substance Use Disorder Treatment	Attachment 4.19-B	July 1, 2024
13.d. Rehabilitative Services: Behavioral Health Services	Attachment 4.19-B	July 1, 2024
13.d. Rehabilitative Services: Mental Health and Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Services for Children	Attachment 4.19-B, Page 1-2 of 2	July 1, 2024
18. Hospice Services	Attachment 4.19-B, Page 1-2 of 2	October 11, 2024

TN No. 26-0003

Supersedes TN No. 24-0042A

Approval Date: July 24, 2026

Effective Date: January 1, 2028

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Attachment 4.19-B
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METHODS AND STANDARDS FOR ESTABLISHING PAYMENT RATES-
OTHER TYPES OF CARE

19. Targeted Case Management: Persons with a Developmental Disability	Attachment 4.19-B, Page 1-2 of 2	July 1, 2024
19.a. Targeted Case Management: Outpatient Substance Use Disorder Treatment	Attachment 4.19-B, Page 1 of 2	July 1, 2024
19.b. Targeted Case Management: Transition Services	Attachment 4.19-B, Page 1 of 1	July 1, 2024
20. Extended Services for Pregnant Women (Prenatal Plus Program)	Attachment 4.19-B	July 1, 2024
24.a. Transportation	Attachment 4.19-B	July 1, 2024
28. Freestanding Birth Center Services	Attachment 4.19-B	July 1, 2024

TN No. 26-0003

Supersedes TN No. 25-0002

Approval Date: July 24, 2026

Effective Date: January 1, 2028