

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-14-26
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group

March 31, 2022

Tracy Johnson
Medicaid Director
Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
1570 Grant Street
Denver, CO 80128

Dear Dr. Johnson:

We are writing to inform you that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is approving Colorado's request to amend the following 1915(c) Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers with the Emergency Preparedness and Response Appendix K in order to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic:

WAIVER TITLE	CMS AMENDMENT CONTROL NUMBER
Elderly, Blind and Disabled (HCBS-EBD)	CO.0006.R08.23
HCBS Waiver for Community Mental Health Supports	CO.0268.R05.24
Supported Living Services	CO.0293.R05.19
Persons with Brain Injury	CO.0288.R05.24
Persons with Spinal Cord Injury	CO.0961.R02.13
Children's Extensive Supports Waiver	CO.4180.R05.18
HCBS waiver for Children with Life Limiting Illness	CO.0450.R03.11
Children's Home and Community Based Services	CO.4157.R06.19
Developmentally Disabled	CO.0007.R08.18
Children's Habilitation Residential Program	CO.0305.R05.17

The amendments that the state has requested in the Appendix K are additive to those previously approved and apply in all locations served by the individual waivers for anyone impacted by COVID-19. The state's approved Appendix K is effective from March 10, 2020 to six months after the end of the federal public health emergency (PHE) for COVID-19. CMS notes the base rate increase for direct care staff wages is being extended until 6 months after the end of the PHE, and the additional 2.11% rate increase for some services is being extended until July 1, 2022. CMS notes and commends the state for using funds to raise the minimum wage of direct care staff approximately 21% above the state's minimum wage requirement.

The state has identified its intent to use money realized from section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan (ARP). Approval of this action does not constitute approval of the state's spending plan. The state must have an approved spending plan in order to use the money realized from section 9817 of the ARP.

Page Two - Dr. Johnson

We have included the approved Appendix K pages with this correspondence. Please utilize the waiver management system for HCBS waivers for any further amendments to this waiver program other than the Appendix K.

If you need assistance, feel free to contact Amanda Hill of my staff at 410-786-2457 or by e-mail at Amanda.Hill@cms.hhs.gov or Margherita Sciulli at 410-786-0691 or by e-mail at Margherita.Sciulli@cms.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Alissa Mooney DeBoy
Director, DEHPG

Enclosure