

APPENDIX K: Emergency Preparedness and Response and COVID-19 Addendum

Background:

This standalone appendix may be utilized by the state during emergency situations to request amendments to its approved waiver, to multiple approved waivers in the state, and/or to all approved waivers in the state. It includes actions that states can take under the existing Section 1915(c) home and community-based waiver authority in order to respond to an emergency. Other activities may require the use of various other authorities such as the Section 1115 demonstrations or the Section 1135 authorities.¹ This appendix may be applied retroactively as needed by the state. Public notice requirements normally applicable under 1915(c) do not apply to information contained in this Appendix.

Appendix K-1: General Information

General Information:

A. State: Colorado

B. Waiver Title(s):

Elderly, Blind and Disabled (HCBS-EBD) Community Mental Health Supports (HCBS-CMHS) Supported Living Services (HCBS-SLS) Brain Injury (HCBS-BI) Developmental Disabilities (HCBS-DD) Children’s Habilitation Residential Program (HCBS-CHRP)

C. Control Number(s):

HCBS-EBD: CO.0006.R08.07 HCBS-CMHS: CO.0268.R05.08 HCBS-SLS: CO.0293.R05.04 HCBS-BI: CO.0288.R05.07 HCBS-DD: CO.0007.R08.04 HCBS-CHRP: CO.0305.R05.04
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D. Type of Emergency (The state may check more than one box):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pandemic or Epidemic
<input type="checkbox"/>	Natural Disaster
<input type="checkbox"/>	National Security Emergency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify):

E. Brief Description of Emergency. *In no more than one paragraph each, briefly describe the: 1) nature of emergency; 2) number of individuals affected and the state’s mechanism to identify individuals at risk; 3) roles of state, local and other entities involved in approved waiver operations; and 4) expected changes needed to service delivery methods, if applicable. The state should provide this information for each emergency checked if those emergencies affect different geographic areas and require different changes to the waiver.*

COVID-19 pandemic. This amendment will apply waiver-wide for each waiver included in this Appendix, to all individuals impacted by the virus or the response to the virus (e.g. closure of day programs, etc.)

F. Proposed Effective Date: Start Date: March 10, 2020 **Anticipated End Date:** September 10, 2020

G. Description of Transition Plan.

All activities will take place in response to the impact of COVID-19 as efficiently and effectively as possible based upon the complexity of the change.

H. Geographic Areas Affected:

These actions will apply across the waiver to all individuals impacted by the COVID-19 virus

I. Description of State Disaster Plan (if available) Reference to external documents is acceptable:

N/A

Appendix K-2: Temporary or Emergency-Specific Amendment to Approved Waiver

Temporary or Emergency-Specific Amendment to Approved Waiver:

These are changes that, while directly related to the state’s response to an emergency situation, require amendment to the approved waiver document. These changes are time limited and tied specifically to individuals impacted by the emergency. Permanent or long-ranging changes will need to be incorporated into the main appendices of the waiver, via an amendment request in the waiver management system (WMS) upon advice from CMS.

a. ___ Access and Eligibility:

i. ___ Temporarily increase the cost limits for entry into the waiver.
[Provide explanation of changes and specify the temporary cost limit.]

ii. ___ Temporarily modify additional targeting criteria.

[Explanation of changes]

b. ___ Services

i. ___ Temporarily modify service scope or coverage.

[Complete Section A- Services to be Added/Modified During an Emergency.]

ii. ___ Temporarily exceed service limitations (including limits on sets of services as described in Appendix C-4) or requirements for amount, duration, and prior authorization to address health and welfare issues presented by the emergency.

[Explanation of changes]

iii. ___ Temporarily add services to the waiver to address the emergency situation (for example, emergency counseling; heightened case management to address emergency needs; emergency medical supplies and equipment; individually directed goods and services; ancillary services to establish temporary residences for dislocated waiver enrollees; necessary technology; emergency evacuation transportation outside of the scope of non-emergency transportation or transportation already provided through the waiver).

[Complete Section A-Services to be Added/Modified During an Emergency]

iv. ___ Temporarily expand setting(s) where services may be provided (e.g. hotels, shelters, schools, churches). Note for respite services only, the state should indicate any facility-based settings and indicate whether room and board is included:

[Explanation of modification, and advisement if room and board is included in the respite rate]:

v. ___ Temporarily provide services in out of state settings (if not already permitted in the state's approved waiver). [Explanation of changes]

c. ___ Temporarily permit payment for services rendered by family caregivers or legally responsible individuals if not already permitted under the waiver. Indicate the services to which this will apply and the safeguards to ensure that individuals receive necessary services as

authorized in the plan of care, and the procedures that are used to ensure that payments are made for services rendered.



d. X Temporarily modify provider qualifications (for example, expand provider pool, temporarily modify or suspend licensure and certification requirements).

i. X Temporarily modify provider qualifications.

[Provide explanation of changes, list each service affected, list the provider type, and the changes in provider qualifications.]

The Department will review any request to waive caregiver age from (18) to (16) for the following services on a case-by-case basis.

CDASS (SCI), (EBD), (CMHS), (BI), (SLS)
Homemaker (SCI), (CES), (EBD), (CMHS), (BI), (SLS)
IHSS (SCI), (CHCBS), (EBD),
Personal Care (SCI), (EBD), (CMHS), (BI), (SLS)

When necessary, allow the Authorized Representative (AR) to also be the care attendant for CDASS.

Waive training requirements for new CDASS Authorized Representatives.

The Department is seeking the ability to allow for modification of staffing ratios for residential services. During the declared public health emergency, the Department wishes to amend ratios to include 1 staff for every 12 participants during the day, 1 staff for every 14 participants at night, and 1 staff for every 8 participants in a secured environment. Providers will continue to submit a Staffing Waiver request to the Department and will be evaluated and granted based on the following criteria: Years facility has been in operation; Past critical incidents at the facility; The Provider has adequately documented how a staffing waiver would not jeopardize the health, safety or quality of life of the participants; Provider availability and client access; and Free of deficiencies impacting participant health and safety in both the CDPHE and Life Safety Code survey and inspections.

In addition, the Department is seeking the ability to suspend staff training requirements during the declared public health emergency to ensure continuity of operations and assurance of client health, safety, and welfare within waiver benefits for the following services:

Alternative Care Facility (EBD) (CMHS)
Supportive Living Program (BI)
Residential Habilitation – Group Residential Services and Supports (DD)
Transitional Living Program (BI)

Providers may choose to provide training on-line in lieu of in-person training. Trainings may also be conducted by telehealth in accordance with HIPAA requirements.

The Department requests to temporarily waive requirements that physicians and other health care professionals be licensed in the state in which they are providing services, so long as they have equivalent licensing in another state.

ii. ___ Temporarily modify provider types.

[Provide explanation of changes, list each service affected, and the changes in the provider type for each service].

iii. ___ Temporarily modify licensure or other requirements for settings where waiver services are furnished.

[Provide explanation of changes, description of facilities to be utilized and list each service provided in each facility utilized.]

e. X Temporarily modify processes for level of care evaluations or re-evaluations (within regulatory requirements). [Describe]

The initial Level of Care (LOC) assessment and yearly re-assessment requirement will be modified to include the option for a telephone or other technological contact for participants of the HCBS waiver in accordance with HIPAA requirements. The case manager will document, in the Log Notes and the assessment the contact with the participant and/or guardian. The CMA will be able to receive the signed form up to 60 days after start date if the member does not have ability to receive forms by email.

The Department will exclude the Patient Medical Information Page (PMIP) from the initial LOC process and yearly reassessment for the length of the State Disaster Plan to prevent a portion of the LOC process from occurring after services are rendered. CMA will document in the Log Notes and the assessment this information.

For the SLS and DD waivers, the Initial Supports Intensity Scale assessment may be completed up to 60 days following enrollment.

f. X Temporarily increase payment rates.

[Provide an explanation for the increase. List the provider types, rates by service, and specify whether this change is based on a rate development method that is different from the current approved waiver (and if different, specify and explain the rate development method). If the rate varies by provider, list the rate by service and by provider.]

The Department is requesting the ability to increase, supplement, or provide additional fee-for-service payment(s) to all HCBS providers, depending on need, to ensure continuity of operations and assurance of client health, safety, and welfare within waiver benefits.

The Department requests the ability to pay an enhanced rate up to 8.2% for the following services:

Adult Day Services (SCI), (EBD), (CMHS), (BI)
Adult Day Service Transportation (SCI), (EBD), (CMHS), (BI)
Adaptive Therapeutic Recreational Equipment and Fees (CES)
Assistive Technology (CES), (SLS)
Behavioral Management and Education, Day Treatment (BI)
Behavioral Services (SLS), (CHRP), (DD)
Community Connector (CES)
Complementary and Integrative Health Services (SCI)
Consumer Directed Attendant Support Services (SCI), (EBD), (CMHS), (BI), (SLS)
Day Treatment (BI)
Day Habilitation (SLS), (DD)
Expressive Therapy (Art and Play Therapy and Music Therapy) (CLLI)
Dental (SLS), (DD)
Hippotherapy (CES)
Homemaker (SCI), (CES), (EBD), (CMHS), (BI), (SLS)
Home Delivered Meals (SCI), (EBD), (CMHS), (BI), (SLS), (DD)
Home Modification (SCI), (EBD), (CMHS), (BI), (SLS)
In-Home Support Services (SCI), (CHCBS), (EBD)
Intensive Support Services (CHRP)
Life Skills Training (SCI), (EBD), (CMHS), (BI), (SLS)
Massage therapy (CES), (CLLI)
Medication Reminder (EBD), (CMHS), (BI)
Mental Health Therapy (BI)
Mentorship (SLS)
Movement Therapy (CES)
Non-Medical Transportation (SCI), (EBD), (CMHS), (BI), (SLS), (DD)
Palliative and Supportive Care (Care Coordination and Pain and Symptom Management (skilled)) (CLLI)
Peer Mentorship (SCI), (EBD), (CMHS), (BI), (SLS), (DD)
Personal Care (SCI), (EBD), (CMHS), (BI), (SLS)
Prevocational Services (SLS), (DD)
Personal Emergency Response Systems (SCI), (EBD), (CMHS), (BI), (SLS)
Professional Services (SLS), (CHRP)
Respite (SCI), (CES), (EBD), (CMHS), (BI), (SLS), (CHRP), (CLLI)
Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies (SCI), (EBD), (CES), (CMHS), (BI), (SLS), (DD)
Substance Abuse Counseling (BI)
Supported Community Connector (SLS)
Supported Employment (SLS), (DD)
Transition Supports (CHRP)
Transition Set-Up and Coordination (SCI), (EBD), (CMHS), (BI), (SLS)
Therapeutic Services (Bereavement Counseling, Therapeutic Life Limiting Illness Support – Individual, Group and Family) (CLLI).
Vehicle Modification (CES), (SLS)
Vision (SLS), (DD)
Youth Day (CES)

The Department requests the ability to pay an enhanced rate up to 13% for the following services:

Alternative Care Facility (EBD), (CMHS)
Residential Services (CHRP)
Residential Habilitation (DD)
Supported Living Programs (BI)
Transitional Living Programs (BI)

Depending on the need, the rates may need to exceed the currently approved rate methodology as delineated in this amendment. The Department has attached the current rate sheet.

g. ___ Temporarily modify person-centered service plan development process and individual(s) responsible for person-centered service plan development, including qualifications.

[Describe any modifications including qualifications of individuals responsible for service plan development, and address Participant Safeguards. Also include strategies to ensure that services are received as authorized.]

h. ___ Temporarily modify incident reporting requirements, medication management or other participant safeguards to ensure individual health and welfare, and to account for emergency circumstances. [Explanation of changes]

i. ___ Temporarily allow for payment for services for the purpose of supporting waiver participants in an acute care hospital or short-term institutional stay when necessary supports (including communication and intensive personal care) are not available in that setting, or when the individual requires those services for communication and behavioral stabilization, and such services are not covered in such settings.

[Specify the services.]

j. X Temporarily include retainer payments to address emergency related issues.

[Describe the circumstances under which such payments are authorized and applicable limits on their duration. Retainer payments are available for habilitation and personal care only.]

Retainer payments for services that include Personal Care including Adult Day Centers, Habilitation Services (Specialized Habilitation, Supported Community Connections, Pre-Vocational Services, Supported Employment Services, and Community Connector), and Personal Care Services shall be provided in response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, retainer payments for services that include personal care can be provided when residential provider closures are necessary due to COVID-19 containment efforts or the individual is sick and cannot attend/receive the service due to medical recommendation, seclusion/quarantine/stay-at-home order, government recommendation that close contact of individuals in the service creates a public risk.. The following residential services will receive retainer payments:

- Alternative Care Facility (EBD, CMHS)
- Supported Living Program (BI)
- Transitional Living Program (BI)
- Residential Habilitation (CHRP, DD)

Medicaid providers shall not exceed the total amount that the provider would have received had services been provided as expected. The retainer time limit may not exceed the lesser of 30 consecutive days or the number of days for which the State authorizes a payment for “bedhold” in nursing facilities.

k. ___ Temporarily institute or expand opportunities for self-direction.

[Provide an overview and any expansion of self-direction opportunities including a list of services that may be self-directed and an overview of participant safeguards.]

l. ___ Increase Factor C.

[Explain the reason for the increase and list the current approved Factor C as well as the proposed revised Factor C]

m. ___ Other Changes Necessary [For example, any changes to billing processes, use of contracted entities or any other changes needed by the State to address imminent needs of individuals in the waiver program]. [Explanation of changes]

Appendix K Addendum: COVID-19 Pandemic Response

1. HCBS Regulations

- a. Not comply with the HCBS settings requirement at 42 CFR 441.301(c)(4)(vi)(D) that individuals are able to have visitors of their choosing at any time, for settings

added after March 17, 2014, to minimize the spread of infection during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Services

- a. Add an electronic method of service delivery (e.g., telephonic) allowing services to continue to be provided remotely in the home setting for:
 - i. Case management
 - ii. Personal care services that only require verbal cueing
 - iii. In-home habilitation
 - iv. Monthly monitoring (i.e., in order to meet the reasonable indication of need for services requirement in 1915(c) waivers).
 - v. Other *[Describe]*:

- b. Add home-delivered meals
- c. Add medical supplies, equipment and appliances (over and above that which is in the state plan)
- d. Add Assistive Technology

3. Conflict of Interest: The state is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic personnel crisis by authorizing case management entities to provide direct services. Therefore, the case management entity qualifies under 42 CFR 441.301(c)(1)(vi) as the only willing and qualified entity.

- a. Current safeguards authorized in the approved waiver will apply to these entities.
- b. Additional safeguards listed below will apply to these entities.

4. Provider Qualifications

- a. Allow spouses and parents of minor children to provide personal care services
- b. Allow a family member to be paid to render services to an individual.
- c. Allow other practitioners in lieu of approved providers within the waiver.

[Indicate the providers and their qualifications]

- d. Modify service providers for home-delivered meals to allow for additional providers, including non-traditional providers.

5. Processes

- a. Allow an extension for reassessments and reevaluations for up to one year past the due date.
- b. Allow the option to conduct evaluations, assessments, and person-centered service planning meetings virtually/remotely in lieu of face-to-face meetings.
- c. Adjust prior approval/authorization elements approved in waiver.
- d. Adjust assessment requirements
- e. Add an electronic method of signing off on required documents such as the person-centered service plan.

Contact Person(s)

A. The Medicaid agency representative with whom CMS should communicate regarding the request:

First Name: Bonnie
Last Name Silva
Title: Office of Community Living Director
Agency: Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
Address 1: 1570 Grant Street
Address 2: Click or tap here to enter text.
City Denver
State Colorado
Zip Code 80203
Telephone: 303-866-6158
E-mail Bonnie.Silva@state.co.us
Fax Number 303-866-2828

8. Authorizing Signature

Signature: Bonnie Silva

Date: 4/13/2020

Bonnie Silva

State Medicaid Director or Designee

