



COLORADO
Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

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Comprehensive Care for Colorado: Proposed Changes to Colorado’s 1115 Substance Use Disorder Waiver

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Colorado’s 1115 Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Waiver

In 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved Colorado’s Section 1115 demonstration waiver “Expanding the Substance Use Disorder Continuum of Care”. This five-year demonstration runs through December 31, 2025, and gives the state authority to provide SUD treatment services in residential and inpatient treatment settings, including Institutions for Mental Disease (IMD). Based on new federal policies, state legislation, and Colorado’s commitment to comprehensive health coverage and improving health outcomes, HCPF is proposing some changes to expand this demonstration waiver program with a focus on continuous eligibility, presumptive eligibility, inpatient mental health service, criminal justice re-entry, and housing and nutrition supports.

Pending Amendments to the 1115 Waiver

Amendment #1- Submitted April 1, 2024

In alignment with House Bill 24-1045, Senate Bill 22-196 and House Bill 23-1300, HCPF submitted an amendment to the current 1115 SUD waiver, on April 1, 2024, to CMS, which would authorize:

- Continuous eligibility for children ages 0-3;
- Continuous eligibility for 12 months for adults leaving state correctional facilities;
- Re-entry services for individuals transitioning from correctional facilities; and
- Reimbursement for acute inpatient and residential stays in IMDs for individuals diagnosed with a serious mental illness (SMI) or serious emotional disturbance (SED).

Amendment #2- Submitted August 12, 2024

In alignment with House Bill 24-1322, HCPF submitted an amendment to the current 1115 SUD waiver, on August 12, 2024, which would authorize:

- Housing services including pre-tenancy & housing navigation services, tenancy sustaining services, rent/temporary housing for up to 6 months (including utilities), and one-time transition and moving costs;
- Nutrition services including meals or pantry stocking, medically-tailored meals, and nutrition counseling/education.

1115 Renewal: Comprehensive Care for Colorado

1115 waivers are a five-year agreement with an option for renewal. HCPF will submit a renewal application to CMS in late 2024, proposing to transition to a Comprehensive 1115 and requesting:

- A no change extension to the SUD waiver authority
- Pending 1115 amendments be incorporated into the Demonstration
- The addition of Presumptive Eligibility for the Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) population
- Renaming the waiver to “Comprehensive Care for Colorado”

For more information contact: hcpf_1115waiver@state.co.us
Learn more on our website: <https://hcpf.colorado.gov/1115sudwaiver>