

# March 2025: *The Latest in LTSS*



In a collaborative effort, leadership members from various agencies in our region have partnered to compile and distribute streamlined communication to our stakeholders in long-term care and supports. We invite you to actively share this information with your stakeholders, ensuring widespread distribution. All issues of this newsletter can be found on the TRE website [here](#).

## The Latest

### **Federal Budget Updates**

The US House passed its budget resolution, which calls for the Energy and Commerce Committee to make cuts of at least \$880 billion, including consideration of cuts to the Medicaid program. Strong advocacy is being coordinated to educate elected officials on the importance of Medicaid for people with disabilities. Colorado works closely with ANCOR, a national organization focused on shaping policy to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Through their advocacy and other state efforts, Speaker Johnson (R-LA) said last Wednesday that per capita caps and lowering the FMAP are now “off the table.” This was also reiterated by Rep. Guthrie (R-KY), chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

### **Resources**

- Chart of Executive Orders and Impact - [Chart of Executive Orders](#)
- Updated national information and advocacy toolkit - [Home | ANCOR](#)
- Immigration Legal Resource Center - [Mission | Immigrant Legal Resource Center | ILRC](#)
- Sign up for OCL and HCPF Communications - [Signup Form](#)

### **State Budget Updates**

The Joint Budget Committee (JBC) continues to complete figure setting activities with HCPF. Currently, they have included funds for caseload growth. They will continue to work over the next 2 weeks to balance the budget. As a result, final information on what impacts may be seen for HCBS are not known at this time.

### **HCPF and State Budget Updates**

- **MedRide Update** – MedRide received a temporary restraining order which means that they will continue services through March 6. The order does not currently authorize MedRide to provide service beyond that date. [Non-Emergent Medical Transportation \(NEMT\) Service Areas | Department of Health Care Policy and Financing](#). Members can also call 800-221-3943 to get help finding an NEMT provider.
- **Medicaid Buy-In Program Premium Payments** – Monthly premium payments for the Medicaid Buy-In Program will start again in May, 2025. Initial notifications have been sent to recipients. Payments, based on monthly income, will need to be paid in order for a Member to maintain Medicaid under this program. A premium letter will be sent in April to recipients stating the amount owed each month. First month payment will be due by May 15, 2025. Payments can be made online or with a check or money order.

- Cover All Coloradans – HCPF has released information on Cover All Coloradans, a program to expand health coverage to children and pregnant people, no matter what their immigration status is. HCPF is monitoring federal laws that could impact this program and will continue to provide updates - [Cover All Coloradans: Health Benefits for Children and Pregnant Persons | Department of Health Care Policy and Financing](#)

### **TRE Updates**

- Interim Support Level Assessment (ISLA) Tool – Training for assessors to use the ISLA is beginning in March. HCPF has confirmed with TRE that there will be a complaint process. Additional details as to the rollout of this tool will be provided as soon as they are known.
- TRE Vault Data System and Member/Provider Portal – There will be a Vault Training for provider organizations during the regular Provider Executive Meeting in March.
  - TRE Vault Phase 1 Rollout and Training
  - Thursday, March 27, 8:30-10:00
  - TRE Vault phase 1 rollout is an essential initiative designed to enhance the referral processes within various agencies. As part of this rollout, TRE will be conducting a vital training session to ensure all representatives are well-versed in the new system and its functionalities.
  - It is recommended that each provider organization sends a representative to this training. Specifically, the individual responsible for handling referrals within your organization should be present at this training.
- Colorado Developmental Disability Council (CDDC) Survey – CDDC is doing research on future housing options for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They are seeking individuals and family members to participate in focus groups in April in the Colorado Springs area. A flyer is attached to this newsletter providing more information. Please help recruit individuals for this survey/focus group.
- TRE Emails – Due to growth in staff at TRE, the organization is moving to a new format for email addresses for new staff. Existing staff will maintain their current emails. However, new staff will begin to have addresses with the format [firstname.lastname@tre.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@tre.org).

## **What Members Should Know**

- Colorado Developmental Disability Council (CDDC) is seeking individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and family members to participate in focus groups in April on future housing needs in Colorado Springs. If you are interested, you can respond to the flyer at the end of this newsletter.
- Anyone receiving Medicaid through the Medicaid Buy-In Program should expect a notification of a premium payment for this benefit. They will receive notification of this as well as a statement of the amount owed in April. The first month payment, based on income, will be due May 15, 2025.
- Stay Positive – Research shows that maintaining a hopeful mindset can improve well-being, strengthen problem-solving skills, and inspire others. The Pikes Peak and Pueblo regions are working together to support families and empower them. This is one of 10 tools of resiliency you can find at <https://www.mhanational.org/stay-positive>
- Resources for Members and Caregivers
  - Self-Care Resource - [Self Care | Colorado Respite Coalition](#)

# What The Acronyms Mean

- Acronym Guide: [Office Of Community Living Acronym Glossary | Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing](#)
- Member = person in services
- CCM = Care and Case Management system (statewide Member health record). This replaced the Benefits Utilization System (BUS)
- HCPF = Health Care Policy and Financing
- CMA = Case Management Agencies. Formerly CCBs and SEPs.
- CMRD = Case Management Redesign
- DSA = Direct Service Area. This is how CMRD designated CMAs. TRE works with both DSA 11 (El Paso, Park, and Teller Counties) and DSA 12 (Pueblo County).
- LTSS = Long Term Services and Supports. Also known as HCBS (Home and Community Based Services) or LTC (Long Term Care).
- OCL = Office of Community Living



# INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY RESEARCH SURVEY



## The Colorado Intentional Communities Research Project Needs Your Feedback!

**WHO:** Inclusive Housing Coalition

**WHAT:** Needs feedback for research on future housing options for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD)

**WHERE:** Across Colorado and virtually

**WHEN:** April 2025, pending participant availability

**WHY:** to improve emerging housing opportunities that support varied abilities/ disabilities and support the rights of adults with IDD

**HOW:** with the participation of self-advocates and family members in a Focus Group

### What to Expect from the Focus Group

- Facilitator will show a few video examples of intentional communities
- The Focus Group will be in plain-language to assist with cognitive accessibility for self-advocate participation
- You can ask questions about intentional communities as a housing option
- We will have a group discussion you can choose to participate or just listen
- We will request that you to fill out a survey at the end
- There will be snacks and a chance to connect with others in your area!

Feel free to email

**Desiree@NeuroInclusiveHousingSolutions.com**  
with questions about this research.

Visit our website for more information

<https://www.ihccolorado.org/intentional-communities-research-project>

### Interested?

Use your camera to scan this QR code to fill out this form, and we will use the responses to identify locations, days, and times

