

Changes coming to long-term services and supports

Starting in April 2026, Health First Colorado (Colorado Medicaid) will make ongoing changes to long-term services and supports (LTSS). We are making these changes because Colorado is experiencing significant budget shortages.

Our commitment to LTSS

Health First Colorado is committed to our members' health and well-being. We are working with our partners, providers and members to help ensure the least disruption possible as we work through these budget changes.

- Members will meet with their case manager to discuss any changes that may apply to them **before** the changes happen.
- The discussion will happen between January and September 2026 during the members annual redetermination or a regular monitoring meeting.

Case managers will:

- Explain new benefit or service limits, if they apply.
- Discuss what members can do if they need more than the new limits allow.
- Talk through other service options that could help meet needs.
- Help with the appeals process, if a member wants to appeal a decision they disagree with about their services and supports.
- Ensure the member's plan meets essential needs.

Summary of the four LTSS changes

During the meeting, case managers will explain if any of these changes listed below will apply.

1. Community Connector - Extraordinary Support Needs

Community Connector helps children who need a very high level of extra support build skills, confidence, and relationships to participate in everyday community activities. Community Connector should only be used when a child's needs in their community are much greater than other children the same age. Community Connector will only be approved for children under age 6 in extremely rare cases.

- Community Connector is **not** for activities usually considered part of normal parenting for young children, such as close supervision and keeping kids safe.
- Community Connector is **not** for transferring, toileting, medical care, or other needs not related to community engagement.

2. Community Connector - New unit limit

There will be new limits on the number of Community Connector units.

If a member's care needs appear to exceed these limits, the case manager can review the situation and make a request for additional services if appropriate.

3. Homemaker - Hours provided by a legally responsible person weekly cap change

When a legally responsible person, such as a parent or guardian, provides Homemaker services, Health First Colorado will now pay for up to 5 hours per week, down from 10 hours per week.

If a member needs more Homemaker services, the case manager can review the situation and help find other caregivers if appropriate.

4. Home and Community-Based Services - Service unit limits

Yearly service unit limits will apply to some Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), specifically Personal Care, Homemaker, and Health Maintenance Activities.

If a member's care needs appear to exceed these limits, the case manager can review the situation and make a request for additional services if appropriate.

Questions?

Talk to your case manager or visit hcpf.colorado.gov/medicaid-sustainability-and-ltss to find fact sheets that have more information about these changes.