



*For people with intellectual and
developmental disabilities*

2016 Policy Agenda

Funding and policy changes to strengthen the CO Medicaid State Plan, state programs, and HCBS Medicaid waivers for people with disabilities to include support for:

- Expansion of community based services for people with IDD and complex medical conditions and/or behavioral disorders;
- Options for self-direction and individual control of budgets in HCBS Medicaid waivers as well as Medicaid state plan benefits;
- Increased funding for family support including respite and other services needed to maintain family stability;
- Formalize the addition of medically necessary services to the State Medicaid Plan for behavioral therapies and treatment for children with developmental disabilities through Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment;
- Full inclusion of children and adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities in the state's behavioral health system;
- Meaningful progress toward Colorado's compliance with the CMS Final Rule regarding Home and Community Based Services;
- No reductions in Medicaid provider rates

Colorado students with disabilities have a legal right to free, appropriate educational opportunities with accompanying supports in the least restrictive environment. CO must provide for:

- Special education services provided in the least restrictive setting by qualified teachers, staff and therapists for all eligible students including para-professional support, alternative school placement, and related supports including transportation;
- Adequate medical and nursing services to support students with complex needs;
- Meaningful transition services for students with disabilities including preparation for continuing education, work-based experiences and preparation for independent living;
- Funding for a pilot project to develop infrastructure for inclusive education programs at two universities and one community college.

Coloradoans with disabilities prefer to live, learn, and work in their community of choice. State systems must be simplified and strengthened to ensure ready access to community living including:

- Medicaid waiver simplification to create a single HCBS waiver for adults with intellectual/developmental disabilities with access to services and supports when and where needed throughout their lifetimes;
- Streamlining of HCBS Medicaid waivers for children with assurances that out of home placement services can be provided without accessing the foster care system;
- Continued expansion of Medicaid buy-in programs to allow working adults with disabilities and families of children with disabilities to obtain health care coverage;
- Person centered assessment, service planning and delivery for all Coloradoans eligible for long term services and supports;
- Access to information and communication technology to improve independence, productivity and quality of life;
- Legislation to transform Colorado as an Employment First state.

Protection of civil rights for people with disabilities including:

- Implementation of mandatory reporting legislation (SB 15-109) for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities;
- School discipline policies that acknowledge behavioral issues related to disability and elimination of restraint and seclusion of students with disabilities;
- Fair treatment of juveniles with disabilities in the criminal justice system to avoid incarceration and employment of restorative justice programs for all citizens;
- Guardianship policies and practices that respect the right of people with disabilities to manage their own affairs with informal assistance and guidance from family, friends, and others. If guardianship is essential, it should be used only to the extent necessary, with a presumption in favor of limited rather than full guardianship.
- Access to informed end-of-life care for persons with developmental disabilities through greater utilization of hospice and palliative care services.