



Journey to Adult Waivers

Care through all ages and stages

Agenda



- Road Map to Care
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Guardianship
- Medicaid and HCBS Waivers




Roadmap to CARE





Transitioning into Adulthood




Beginning your Journey

-  Age 14 is the earliest a person can be placed on the list for Medicaid Waiver Programs— funded adult disability services such as the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver and the Supported Living Services (SLS)
-  This early transition planning can ensure funding availability when individuals turn 18, facilitating a smooth transition without interruptions in services.
-  At age 14, it may also be a good time to start looking at Special Needs Trusts. In addition to exploring School Transition Services.



Approaching Adulthood

Navigating Key Steps

-  It is important to begin exploring guardianship or other options to assist your adult child in decision-making process. Emancipation is automatic unless the parent formally goes through a legal process to obtain guardianship
-  Once an individual has turned 18 years old for at least one month, they become eligible to apply for SSI benefits.
-  To qualify for waiver services, it's necessary to undergo a disability determination process through either SSI or Medicaid Disability, in addition to being eligible for Medicaid benefits. You have the option to apply for both Medicaid and Medicaid Disability.



Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a Federal income supplement program funded by general tax revenues (not Social Security taxes).

- SSI provides cash assistance to children and adults with limited income and resources who are age 65 or older, blind or disabled.
- Provides cash to meet basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter.
- Medicaid eligibility is awarded in conjunction with SSI approval
- Eligibility usually begins the 1st of the full month following the date of application or the protective filing date
- Current resource limits are \$2000 per qualifying individual/child and \$3000 per couple
\$914 is the current 2023 monthly installment for individuals.
- <https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/text-eligibility-ussi.htm>



Guardianship



At age 18, everyone regardless of disability becomes an emancipated adult under Colorado law. Consider exploring guardianship or other options to assist your adult child in decision-making. Emancipation is automatic unless the parent formally goes through a legal process to obtain guardianship.



Guardianship



Conservatorship: A conservatorship is a court proceeding that appoints an individual, or an entity like a private fiduciary, to manage the financial affairs of a minor or an adult who is unable to manage his or her own property or financial matters. A conservator must keep detailed and accurate records of all of the financial information of the protected person.

Limited Power of Attorney: A Limited Power of Attorney, also known as a Special Power of Attorney, is granted the legal authority, in writing, to perform a specific act or acts or have Power of Attorney for a limited amount of time.

Supported decision-making: The person with the disability chooses a team of individuals around them to assist them when making critical life decisions. These supporters provide information and perspectives, while respecting that ultimately, the choice is in the hands of the person with disabilities.



Guardianship



Medical Durable Power of Attorney: Grants the Power of Attorney authority to make medical and personal care decisions on an individual's behalf.

Financial Power of Attorney: A Financial Power of Attorney, also known as a General Power of Attorney or General Power of Attorney for Property, gives you the authority to manage your child's finances and property, however, you may not override his/ her wishes. For example, this would allow you to withdraw funds from a bank account, pay bills, and cash checks on the individual's behalf

Power of Attorney: Essentially, a power of attorney is a legal document that grants a parent (or other individual) legal rights and powers on behalf of your child (once the child is 18 years or older). You have the ability to make decisions for your child, but you cannot override his/her wishes.



Guardianship



Guardianship is a very powerful role to be played in the life of a person with a disability, and it may not be appropriate for your family or child. The guardian may make personal decisions for the ward (your child) relating to living arrangements, education, social activities, and authorization or withholding of medical or other professional care, treatment, or advice. The guardian must always make decisions that are in the best interests of the ward. The guardian must always make sure that the ward is living in the least restrictive environment in which the ward can remain safe.

<https://pascohh.com/resources>

Understanding Medicaid & PASCO Services

State Plan Benefits

PASCO Services Offered: CNA, PPC (Pediatric Personal Care), Skilled Nursing (Current Families)
FUTURE STATE – Community First Choice (CFC) will have IHSS at the State Plan Level (Coming 2024-2025)

Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waivers

Provides all State Plan benefits **plus** additional waiver services

Allows participants and their families to remain integrated in the community and have decision making power over their life and health

- Participants receive services in their home and community

Children's Waivers

- Children With Life Limiting Illness Waiver (CLLI)
- Children's Extensive Support Waiver (CES)
- Children's Home & Community Based Services Waiver (CHCBS)
- Children's Habilitation Residential Program Waiver (CHRP)

Adult Waivers

- Brain Injury Waiver (BI)
- Community Mental Health Supports Waiver (CMHS)
- Developmental Disabilities Waiver (DD)
- Elderly, Blind and Disabled Waiver (EBD)
- Complementary and Integrative Health Waiver (CIH)
- Supported Living Services Waiver (SLS)



Home & Community-Based Services Waivers (HCBS)

- A waiver is an extra set of enhanced benefits, and each waiver has specific program rules as well as targeted supports and services. This allows Medicaid recipients to receive care in their home and community.
- These programs serve a variety of targeted populations, such as people with intellectual or developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, and or mental illnesses.

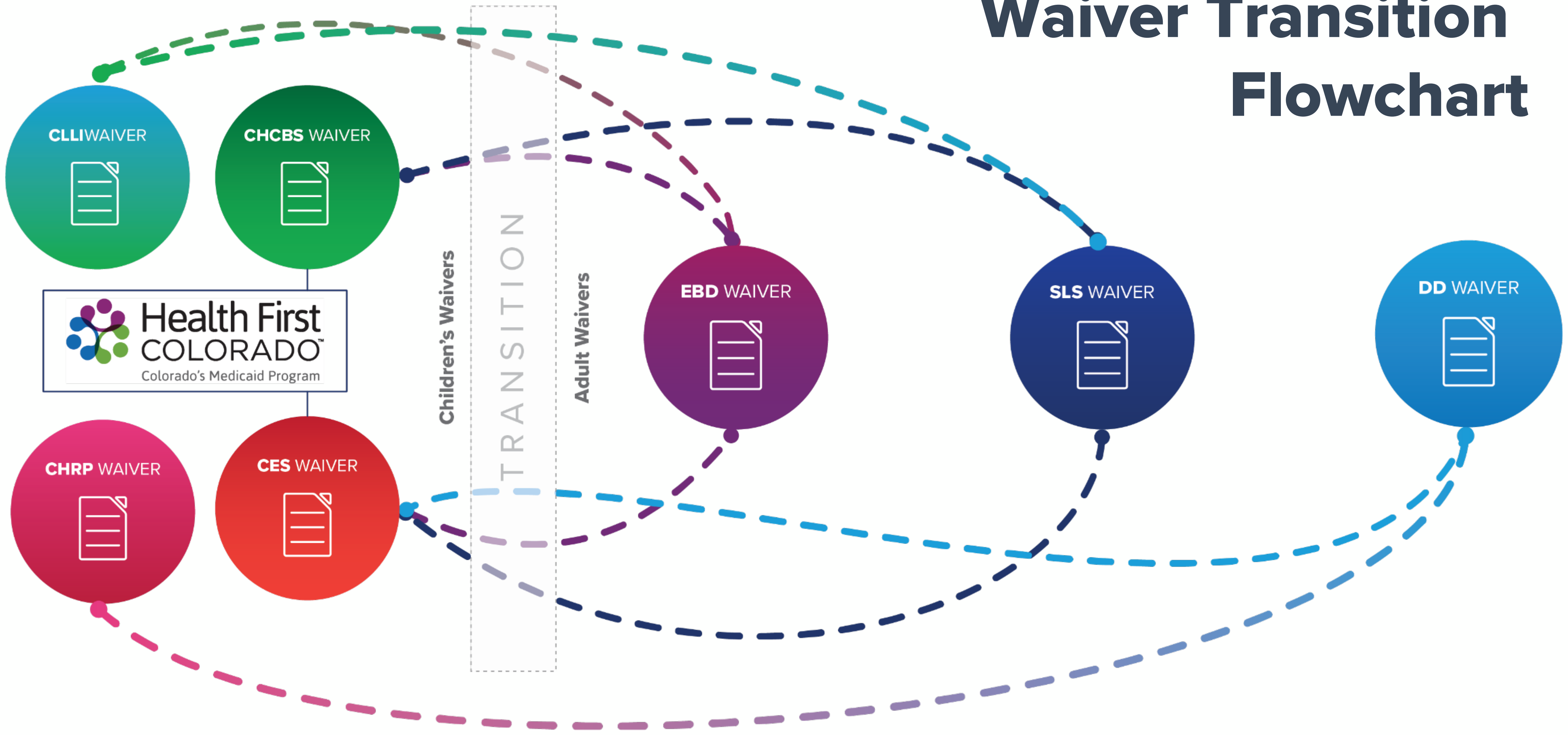


Home & Community Based Services Waivers (HCBS)

HCBS waivers allow flexibility to:

- Waive certain income/eligibility criteria
- Provide individuals more choice and independence
- Provide specific services to target groups
- Provide all Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program) State Plan benefits
- Participants can only be enrolled in one waiver at a time
- Waivers go through a renewal process with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) every 5 years
- Allow participants to receive services in their home and community
- Participants must utilize a waiver service monthly or every 30 days to remain active
- Waiver services are managed by Case Management Agencies

Waiver Transition Flowchart



Adult Waivers



- Developmental Disabilities Waiver (DD)
- Elderly, Blind and Disabled Waiver (EBD)
- Supported Living Services Waiver (SLS)

- Brain Injury Waiver (BI)
- Community Mental Health Supports Waiver (CMHS)
- Complementary and Integrative Health Waiver (CIH)



Intellectual and Developmental Disability Waivers

- For a child with an Intellectual and/or Developmental Disability at age 17-17 1/2, your Case Manager will begin the discussion with you and your family to Conduct a Supports Intensity Scale Assessment to determine Long-term Funding
- What is the purpose of a Supports Intensity Scale Score?
 - Designed to identify and measure the practical support requirements of adults with developmental disabilities



HCBS Supported Living Services Waiver

The SLS waiver is an IDD waiver that provides a variety of services and supports for adults living in their own homes or with family in the community.

- At least 18 years or older
- *Funding is based off the individuals Support Intensity Scale score.*
- *Currently, there is no waitlist for this program.*
- Determined to have a developmental disability by a Community Centered Board
- Needs support completing some or all activities of daily living
- Meets Social Security disability criteria
- Meets financial requirements to be eligible for Health First Colorado Medicaid

Services and supports

- Assistive Technology
- CDASS (Consumer Directed Attendant Support Services Mentorship)
- **Personal Care**
- Day Habilitation (Day Program)/**Supported Community Connections/Specialized Habilitation**
- **Non-Medical Transportation**
- Vision/Dental
- **Homemaker**
- **Mentorship**
- Pre-vocational Services
- Supported Employment
- Life Skills Training
- **Respite**
- Behavioral Services
- Supported Employment
- Assistive Technology
- Vehicle & home mods (\$10k 5-year waiver renewal period)
- Other therapies
- Specialized medical equipment



Supported Living Services (SLS) Waiver FAQs

Is there a budget for SLS waiver services?

- Yes, the amount of funding available is determined by an individual's support level. This is determined by your Support Intensity Scale evaluation and the support levels range from 1-6.

Are residential services included in this waiver?

- No, the SLS waiver doesn't provide additional support for residential services. Living arrangements can include living with family, living with roommates or living in their own home. This waiver does not provide paid support for twenty-four (24) hour supervision.

Can C.N.A services continue while enrolled under the waiver ?

- Yes, C.N.A services can continue under the supported living services waiver. CNA care is not billed as a waiver benefit, it is a state plan Medicaid benefit.

Can a parent provide services under the waiver?

- Yes, parents can be paid to become a provider for your loved one. Through PASCO a parent can be paid to provide services such as supported community connections, personal care, mentorship, and homemaker. Friends or other individuals can provide additional services such as respite

Enrollments are limited by the state and there is a waiting list.



HCBS Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver

What is the DD Waiver?

The Developmental Disability (DD) Waiver provides access to services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week according to an individual's prioritized needs. This program encompasses a range of services including residential, day programs, behavioral, transportation, and employment.

Qualifications:

- 18 years or older
- Determined to have a developmental disability by a Community Centered Board
- Needs support completing some or all activities of daily living
- Meets Social Security disability criteria
- Meets financial requirements to be eligible for Health First Colorado Medicaid

How Can it benefit an individual?

- **Day Habilitation (Day Program)/Supported Community Connections/Specialized Habilitation**
- Vision/Dental
- Non-medical transportation
- Prevocational Services
- **Residential Habilitation Services & Supports** provided in multiple settings including host homes, independent living and family homes
- Specialized Medical Equipment & Supplies
- Supported Employment
- Behavioral Supports



SIS score determines residential funding.

HCBS Developmental Disabilities (DD) Waiver FAQs

Is there a waitlist for this waiver?

- In Colorado, there is an extremely long waiting list for the DD Waiver if you do not transition immediately upon your 18th birthday from CES or 21st birthday from CHRP .

Is there another way to get onto the DD waiver?

- If the individual chooses not to enroll into the DD Waiver they will be placed on the waitlist. There is also an option for emergency placement if the individual meets the emergency criteria.

Where can residential services be provided?

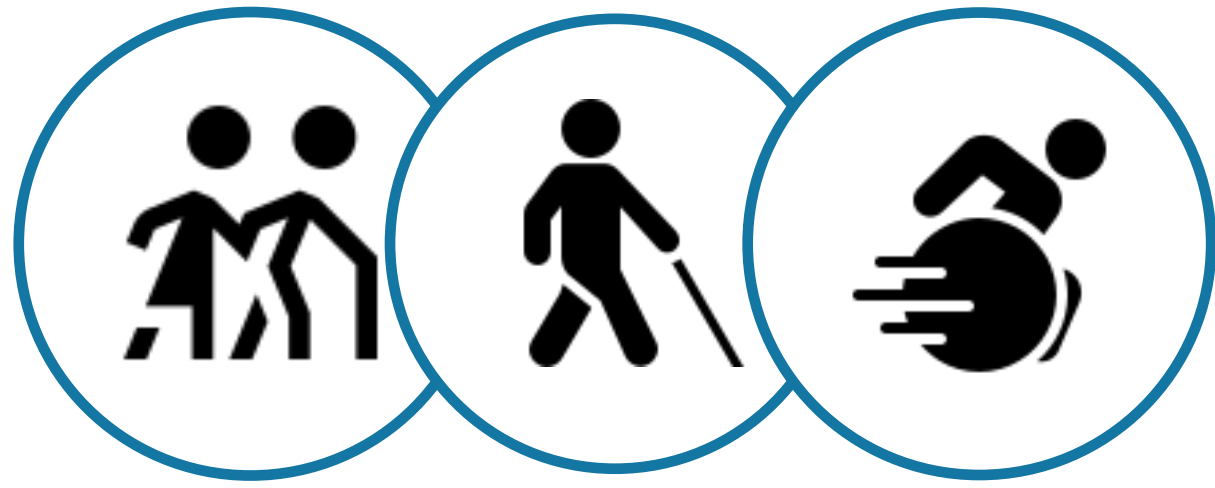
- The DD Waiver is designed for adults age 18 and older who are unable to live completely independently. Individuals may choose to live and receive residential services either:
 - 1) In the family home (Family Caregiver Model through Personal Care Alternative)
 - 2) In their own home (Personal Care Alternative)
 - 3) Other residential setting (Host Home/Group Home)

Can an individual receive Private Duty Nursing on the DD Waiver?

- YES!!! PDN is billed as a state plan Medicaid benefit, not a waiver benefit.

Understanding Alternative Waiver Programs





Elderly, Blind, and Disabled (EBD) Waiver

Qualifications:

- 18 years or older.
- Between 18-64, you must be blind or have a physical disability, or have a diagnosis of HIV or AIDS.
- 65 and older, you must have been determined to have a significant functional impairment.
- Income must be less than 3x current Federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) limit per month.
- For a single person, your countable resources must be less than \$2,000 and for a couple they must be less than \$3,000.

What services are available?

- Alternative care facility
- **In Home Support Services (IHSS)**
- Community Transition services
- Adult Day Services
- **Personal Care/Relative Personal Care**
- **Homemaker Services**
- **Respite Care**
- Home Modification (one time up to \$16,000)
- Non-medical Transportation
- Personal Emergency Response System
- Medication Reminder
- Consumer Directed Attendant Support Services (CDASS)



In Home Support Services – IHSS

- Currently available on 3 HCBS Waivers – expanding through Colorado First Choice (CFC) in July 2025
- Income tax exemption for live-in caregivers
 - State and Federal taxes
- Physician Attestation of Consumer Capacity
 - Independent with Navigating Care
 - Requires additional support with Authorized Representative
- Care Plan Calculator and Agency Plan of Care are the tools used to help determine appropriate hours of support
- Available service options include Health Maintenance, Personal Care (Relative/Non-Relative), Homemaking



Erika



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We're with you



<https://pascohh.com/children-to-adult-waiver-transitions-in-colorado/>



Rita



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