

Helpful Info



COLORADO

Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

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Individual Residential Services and Supports (IRSS): Rate Alignment

Helpful Information For Members, Families, and Advocates

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What is IRSS?

Individual Residential Services and Supports (IRSS) is a residential habilitation service available only through the [Developmental Disabilities \(DD\) Waiver](#). This service uses a variety of living arrangements to meet the unique needs for support, guidance, and habilitation of each member. Individuals may access IRSS in a variety of settings, including:

- **Host Homes** - The member lives with a provider in a private home.
- **Family Homes** - A caregiver provides services in their own home/family home.
- **Member Homes** - The member lives in their own home or apartment with support.
- **Staffed Homes** - Provider agency staff rotate 24/7 to support members.

What is changing?

The way IRSS settings are defined in regulation is unclear and does not account for the variety of settings available under IRSS. In addition, there are currently two IRSS rates, and it has been confusing which rate applies to each setting.

To address this, the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) will update regulations and billing manuals to ensure that:

- **Host Homes, Family Homes, Member Homes, and Staffed Homes are clearly defined.**
- **Rates are aligned to match the operational and administrative costs of each setting.**
- **Only Staffed Homes** (provider-owned homes with rotating agency staff) will qualify for the higher rate.
- **All other settings** (Host Homes, Family Homes, and Member Homes) will bill at the lower rate.



Why is this happening?

Unclear regulations and inconsistent communication have led to the overuse of the higher rate. This change ensures:

- Accurate billing across all settings.
- Fair and appropriate reimbursement for providers.
- Program sustainability through savings that help maintain all DD waiver services.

How will this affect families and providers?

- Family caregivers will no longer bill at the higher Staffed Home rate.
- Host Home, Member Home, and Family Home providers will be paid the same.
- Only Staffed Homes will qualify for the higher rate.
- The change is not about reducing access, nor does HCPF anticipate members losing any services with this change — **it's about better defining IRSS and sustainability of DD waiver services.**

When will this take effect?

- HCPF will change regulations and update billing guidance, with an effective date anticipated for **March 2026**.
- Stakeholders can provide input on proposed regulation changes in **October and November 2025**.
- Final guidance will be provided in **Spring 2026** through revised regulations, billing guidance, and an Operational Memo.

Key Message

This change makes rates and billing for IRSS more consistent, ensures higher rates go only to settings with higher costs, and helps keep waiver services sustainable for the future.

For more information contact

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