



COLORADO

Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

303 E. 17th Ave. Suite 1100
Denver, CO 80203

Community First Choice (CFC) Fact Sheet

February 2025

What is Community First Choice?

Community First Choice (CFC) is a Medicaid program that expands service and service delivery options for home and community-based services (HCBS) to Health First Colorado (Medicaid) members who need long-term care, including members who are currently on an HCBS waiver. CFC will be available in Colorado beginning July 1, 2025. Colorado has chosen to implement CFC to better support members to live and thrive at home and in their communities with the help of additional funding from the federal government.

What services will be available through Community First Choice (CFC)?

NOTE: If a member currently receives any of these services through their HCBS waiver, access to those services will not change when CFC launches. In fact, members may now have more service and caregiver options to choose from under CFC. Services under CFC are available to members of all ages and are not targeted based on disability or diagnosis. However, age-appropriate guidelines will still apply when assessing children for services.

- [Personal Care](#)
 - Including the choice of using [Consumer Directed Attendant Support Services \(CDASS\)](#), [In-Home Support Services \(IHSS\)](#) or traditional agency service delivery models
 - NEW: Acquisition, Maintenance, and Enhancement of Skills (AME) task
- [Homemaker](#)
 - Including the choice of using CDASS, IHSS or traditional agency service delivery models
 - NEW: Acquisition, Maintenance, and Enhancement of Skills (AME) task
- [Health Maintenance Activities](#)
 - Member-directed skilled care option through CDASS or IHSS service delivery model
- [Personal Emergency Response Systems \(PERS\)](#)
- [Medication Reminders](#)
- [Transition Setup](#)
- [Home Delivered Meals](#)
- [Remote Supports and Remote Supports Technology](#)



Who is eligible for Community First Choice (CFC)?

Individuals of all ages are eligible for CFC if they are either:

- Enrolled in Health First Colorado, meet an institutional level of care (LOC), and have an assessed need for a CFC service(s).
 - An institutional level of care, determined by a case manager using the State Level of Care Assessment, means that an individual has a risk for going into an institution if they cannot receive services in their home or community (an institution is defined as a nursing home, hospital, intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities, or inpatient mental health facility).

or

- Enrolled in an HCBS waiver program, receiving at least one waiver service per month, and have an assessed need for a CFC service(s).
 - **It is important for all HCBS waiver members to receive at least one waiver service per month to remain eligible for their HCBS waiver and for CFC.**
 - Some members' current HCBS services will all be under CFC in the future, so Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF) is adding the [Wellness Education Benefit \(WEB\)](#) to all HCBS waiver programs in May 2025. The WEB can help these members continue to receive at least one waiver service per month.

How will I get access to Community First Choice (CFC) services?

Current HCBS Waiver Members with Renewal Dates Between July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

If you are an HCBS member who is currently using services that will be covered under CFC or would like to enroll in CFC to access newly available services or service delivery models, you may do so at the time of your Continued Stay Review (CSR) with your case manager. Your case manager will go through the same assessment process they do now for HCBS waiver members to assess your service needs. If you have an assessed need for any CFC services, you may access that service under CFC and continue to receive all your other needed waiver services under your HCBS waiver. At a minimum, you can receive the Wellness Education Benefit (WEB) to maintain waiver eligibility.

Current Medicaid Members NOT Receiving HCBS Waiver Services

If you are currently enrolled in Health First Colorado and are interested in receiving CFC services, you will need to reach out to your local Case Management Agency after July 1, 2025 to begin the eligibility and assessment process. Visit the [Case Management Agency Directory page](#) to find contact information for the agency in your area. When contacting your Case Management Agency, you can tell them you would like to explore services through Community First Choice (CFC).



What changes can I expect from Community First Choice (CFC)?

The changes you can expect with CFC are:

- Expanded access to services.
- Expanded access to self-directed service delivery options, including [Consumer Directed Attendant Support Services \(CDASS\)](#) or [In-Home Support Services \(IHSS\)](#), and
- A new task, Acquisition, Maintenance, and Enhancement of Skills (AME), under the Personal Care and Homemaker services.
- Expanded caregiver options for legally responsible persons.

You should expect the following to **stay the same**:

- If you currently receive HCBS, your Case Management Agency will not change under CFC - unless you move to a different service area. Your case manager's responsibilities will stay the same under CFC.
- If you currently receive services that are included in CFC, you will continue to receive those services and your providers should not change - unless you want to self-direct your services or change providers.
- The way eligibility is currently determined for HCBS waivers will not change.

How can I learn more about Community First Choice (CFC)?

Please visit the [CFC Resources webpage](#) for more information. If you would like to get involved and stay up to date on information regarding CFC implementation, please join the [CFC Council meetings](#) held on the 1st Wednesday of the month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Mountain Time.

Additionally, if you have any questions regarding these upcoming changes, please do not hesitate to reach out to the CFC inbox at hcpf_cfc@state.co.us.

