



CHASE

Colorado Healthcare Affordability and
Sustainability Enterprise

Hospital Transformation Program Update

August 2020

At the Aug. 25, 2020 Colorado Healthcare Affordability and Sustainability Enterprise (CHASE) Board meeting, the board voted to revise the implementation of the Hospital Transformation Program (HTP) until February 2021.

Background

At the end of July, a large group of rural hospitals spoke to the Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (the Department) about the possibility of a delay to the implementation of HTP to allow for proactive participation in the program with meaningful community engagement in light of COVID-19 pandemic. On Aug. 5, 2020, [a joint letter](#) from the Colorado Hospital Association, the Colorado Rural Health Center, the Western Healthcare Alliance and the Eastern Plains Healthcare Consortium was sent to the Department formally requesting a delay in the implementation of HTP until six months after the public health emergency officially ended.

One of the Department's primary goals is to improve health care affordability for all Coloradans. In light of the current public health crisis, the Department is in a position to help the state manage its limited budget by keeping health care costs down for the one in four Coloradans enrolled in Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid program).

In addition to better outcomes and quality of care for patients, the HTP will assist in driving efficiency in the hospital delivery system, a need now more urgent than ever given COVID-19 and its dire budgetary impact.

As a result of feedback from hospitals, especially those in rural areas, the Department re-evaluated the situation given the current circumstances of COVID-19 and the impact it has had on hospital resources. The Department [responded](#) to their letter on Aug. 24, 2020 proposing a start date of February 2021. All decisions in terms of development and implementation of the HTP are a joint effort between the Department and the CHASE Board and on Aug. 25, 2020, after a discussion at the CHASE Board meeting, the board voted to recommend delaying the implementation of HTP until February 2021.

Going Forward

An updated timeline of HTP implementation can be found below.



Updated HTP Timeline



During the delay between now and February, the Department will use this time to work with community partners and the HTP Community Advisory Council to build out the operational infrastructure of the program and evaluate how HTP can promote equity in the health care system. The Department will continue to collaborate with the HTP Community Advisory Council and hospital workgroups and engage with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to finalize program components and federal authority for the program.

Hospitals can use this time to continue working on HTP plans in preparation for the application. As always, the Department will continue to be available for technical assistance, questions and consultation with hospitals as needed. Questions about the HTP timeline and application process should be directed to the HTP dedicated inbox at COHTP@state.co.us.

