



COLORADO

Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

Changes to the Children's Home and Community-Based Services Waiver FAQ

Updated January 2019

Why is the Department implementing parental fees in the Child Home and Community Based Services (CHCBS) waiver?

The authorizing statute for the Child Home and Community-Based Service (CHCBS) waiver (C.R.S. 25.5-6-901) authorizes the Department to implement a cost sharing structure in the CHCBS waiver. During the 2018 legislative session, the Colorado General Assembly authorized Budget Request R-08 which provided funding to the Department to implement parental fees within the CHCBS waiver. The Department requested this funding because of prior stakeholder engagement and past attempts to implement fees within this waiver.

The implementation of the parental fees will establish equity and fairness between the CHCBS waiver and the Children with Disabilities Buy-In program.

How much is the CHCBS parental fee?

The Department is currently finalizing a sliding fee scale. The fee will depend on each family's income. The Department is additionally analyzing other considerations such as if a child is covered by a commercial policy or if there are multiple children on the CHCBS waiver in the same household.

Why are CHCBS families required to pay the fee when they require a higher level of care than the Children's Buy-In Program?

A condition of eligibility for the CHCBS waiver is that the child must not otherwise be eligible for Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program).

Individuals receiving services through the Children with Disabilities Buy-In program are otherwise eligible for Health First Colorado. Additionally, these families also pay a monthly fee for services administered through the Children with Disabilities Buy-In program.

Why is CHCBS the only waiver which will require families to pay a fee for services to their children?

The CHCBS waiver is the only waiver where statute requires that the child must not

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otherwise be eligible for services under Health First Colorado. Other waivers provide services to children from all household income levels.

My child is on the CHCBS waiver, will these fees require my child to be moved to the Children’s with Disabilities Buy-In program?

Children who meet the eligibility requirements of the CHCBS program will not lose access to waiver services with the implementation of a fee. Additionally, any reporting of parental income will not result in families being required to access Medicaid through other methods.

The Department is working to clarify rule language to be in alignment with existing statute.

How does the parental fee impact my child’s ability to be covered by a third-party insurance policy?

The CHCBS parental fee will not impact your child’s ability to be covered by a third party or private insurance policy. Health First Colorado is the payer of last resort for all health care costs. Your child’s medical provider will submit claims first to your private insurance policy, and then to Health First Colorado.

Is the parental fee a shift of costs from one program to another?

No, the CHCBS parental fees will establish equitable cost sharing across income levels for the families of children with disabilities, either through the CHCBS waiver or the Children with Disabilities Buy-In program.

Will my income from being a parent CNA or In-Home Support Services (IHSS) attendant count toward calculating my parental fee?

The CHCBS parental fees will be calculated based on a household’s adjusted income. Income from being a parent CNA or IHSS attendant comes from different federal authorities and have different tax implications. The Department encourages families to consult with their tax professional to determine what types of income are reportable.

Why isn’t the amount of the fee based on the amount of services a child receives?

The Department believes that charging fees based on the amount of services a child receives would create a new inequity between children who have varying costs of services. The Department is working with the community to develop a fee scale that is fair and equitable to children and families.

