



## **Home and Community Based Service for Children with Autism**

### **Proposed Expansion Information Sheet**

The Children with Autism (CWA) waiver provides intensive behavioral intervention and treatment for children, from birth to age six, with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Currently, the waiver has an enrollment cap of 75 clients per year with 320 children waiting to enroll. The CWA waiver is the only Medicaid children's waiver that has a waitlist. The average wait time for enrollment is approximately two-and-a-half years and once clients do enroll, the average length of stay on the waiver is less than a year. The CWA waiver has an age limit of six, but due to the size of the waitlist, children are not able to enroll in the waiver until after they turn five, leaving less than a year for intervention and treatment. The Department has proposed to expand the waiver to address these issues.

#### **The scope of the proposed CWA expansion includes:**

- Increasing the age limit for entrance onto the waiver from a child's sixth birthday to their eighth birthday.
- Allowing a three year stay on the waiver for all children that enroll before their eighth birthday.
- Eliminating the waitlist and allowing the enrollment cap to fluctuate based on need.
- Allowing a one-time increase for the client annual expenditure from \$25,000 to \$30,000 and then allowing the cap to fluctuate based on provider rate increases.
- Providing annual program evaluation to measure the overall effectiveness of the waiver services.

**All proposed changes are contingent on HB-1186 passing the State General Assembly and approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The Department will not be able to implement any changes prior to receiving all required approvals.**

If you have any program questions or comments regarding CWA Expansion, please send an email to: [CWAexpansion@state.co.us](mailto:CWAexpansion@state.co.us)

If you have any legislative questions about HB-1186, please contact Zach Lynkiewicz, Legislative Liaison: [Zach.Lynkiewicz@state.co.us](mailto:Zach.Lynkiewicz@state.co.us)

