



# Cost Analysis of Consumer Directed Attendant Support Services

## **Background**

Colorado offers two consumer-directed options to clients who receive Medicaid-funded long term services and supports. One of those options, Consumer Directed Attendant Support Services (CDASS) started as a pilot program in 2001, and is now Colorado's largest consumer directed option with over 2,300 clients directing their own services or who have appointed an authorized representative to direct the services.

## **Benefits**

- Employer Authority
- Budget Authority
- Flexible Requirements for Attendants
- Community and Societal
- Personal

## **Risks and Challenges**

- Financial
- Programmatic

## **Study Design**

The study reviewed data for clients who were eligible and enrolled in Colorado's Home and Community Based Services – Elderly Blind and Disabled (HCBS-EBD) waiver and who lived in their own homes during fiscal years 2010-2011 and 2011-2012.

The study reviewed three HCBS-EBD population subsets:

- Clients who never participated in CDASS
- Clients who were not in CDASS originally, but then selected and received CDASS
- Clients who were in CDASS throughout the study period

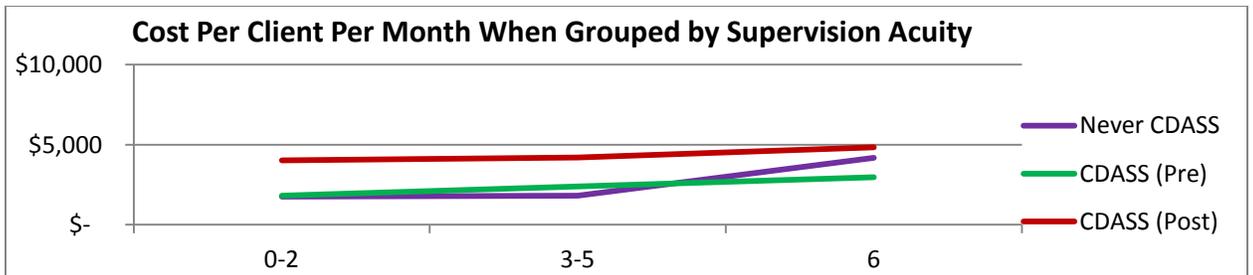
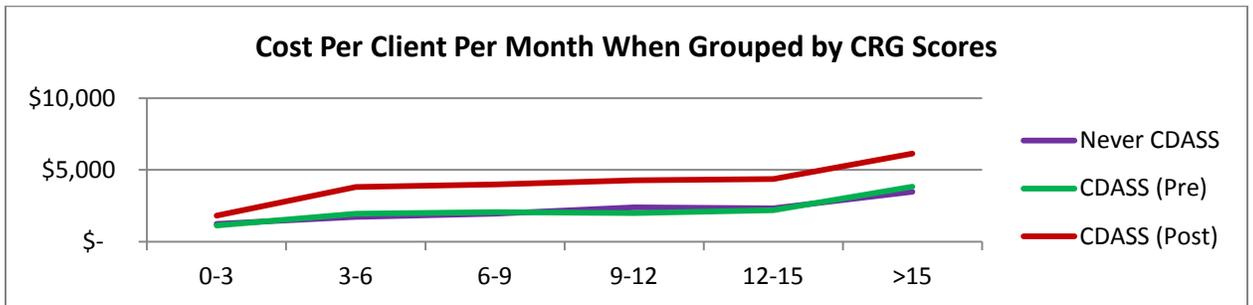
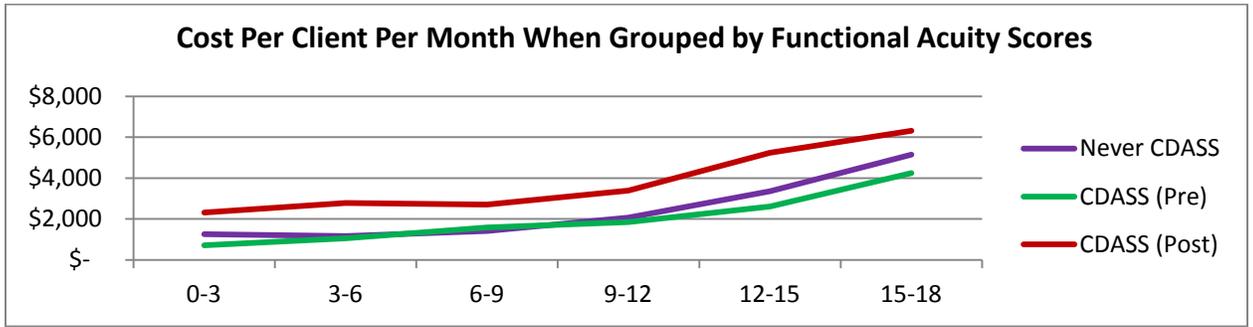
The study used three acuity measures for each subset:

- Clinical Risk Group (CRG)
- Scores assessing activities of daily living needs
- Scores assessing behavior or memory/cognition needs



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## Principle Findings



## Conclusions

CDASS costs on average:

- 58% per client per month more when grouped by functional acuity scores
- 86% per client per month more when grouped by CRG scores
- 68% per client per month more when grouped by supervision acuity scores

Reasons for increase cost include:

- Prior to consumer direction needs were not being met
- Previously uncompensated caregivers
- Greater access to services

## **Contact Information**

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