Reimbursements rates must increase for FY 2023-24 to ensure critical services continue in Colorado

Home and personal care providers rely on rates set by the state to provide essential care to Colorado’s Medicaid population. They not only improve the health and quality of life for these patients, but they also save the state substantial money. Home health and personal care are far less costly than care administered in a hospital or other institutional setting.

Yet, current rates are not sufficient to support this care.

Providers – many of whom are small businesses – face incredible financial challenges, including high fuel costs and higher wages in a competitive market with soaring inflation. Don’t risk waiting until these providers are forced out of Medicaid, and the patients who depend on them are forced into higher-cost settings away from their homes. Now is the time to act.

Benefits of In-Home Services

• Saves the state money
• Improves patient outcomes
• Keeps children and families together in their homes
• Allows parents of patients to pursue gainful employment, reducing reliance on public aid programs

Why invest in Home Health?

Home Health meets a critical need for the state, particularly in rural and underserved communities. It keeps patients out of hospitals and emergency departments by providing necessary medical care to them at home. It also provides therapy services to help patients improve or restore their function.

However, the current rates for home health are inadequate to ensure their continued availability for Medicaid patients. Losing these services would come at a huge cost to the state, and would be devastating for the patients and families who rely on these services.
Because we saw what happened when we didn’t. Colorado must remain competitive in its rates to avoid returning to a state of crisis where patients can’t be discharged from the hospital due to a lack of available in-home services. Demand for nurses is growing, and Colorado is expected to face a significant nursing shortage within the next five years. Medically fragile patients rely on the Private Duty Nursing program for life-sustaining care.

**Why invest in Private Duty Nursing?**

Because we saw what happened when we didn’t. Colorado must remain competitive in its rates to avoid returning to a state of crisis where patients can’t be discharged from the hospital due to a lack of available in-home services. Demand for nurses is growing, and Colorado is expected to face a significant nursing shortage within the next five years. Medically fragile patients rely on the Private Duty Nursing program for life-sustaining care.

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**Why invest in Home and Community Based Services?**

Since the pandemic, employers have struggled to retain workers for jobs requiring in-person attendance that traditionally have lower wages. That has been particularly challenging for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) providers in Colorado. HCBS services include personal care, homemaker services and health maintenance services. They allow recipients – including those with intellectual or developmental disabilities, physical disabilities and mental illnesses – to perform essential daily tasks and remain in their own home or community, rather than an institution or other isolated setting. To maintain services for clients, rates must keep up with inflation and the demand for higher wages in this workforce.

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Jai’anie receives 98 hours of private duty nursing services a week, which helps manage her doctor’s appointments, medication, feeding tube, trach and ventilator. The private duty nursing program allows Jai’anie to remain at home with her family.

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Char lives on the Western Slope. Without In-Home Support Services, available through the family’s HCBS waiver, Char’s family says it would be nearly impossible to find enough care support and child care given Char’s disabilities and increased care needs.

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**Meet Jai’anie**

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**Meet Char**

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