

July 2022 Policy Changes – Health Coverage Programs

Updated July 2022



Several policy changes went into effect on July 1, 2022, that impact access to health coverage in Colorado. Below is a quick-reference list of the populations that are impacted by each policy change. Below that is a list of each policy change, including talking points to use with your clients.

Impacted Populations:

People without documentation:

- New reproductive health care services
- Extension of Emergency Medicaid to 12 months of coverage
- Removal lawful presence requirement for state and local programs

Older adults:

- Extended eligibility for Working Adults with Disabilities benefit for individuals 65 and older

Pregnant individuals:

- Postpartum expansion to 12 months for Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid program) and Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) members

Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) members:

- Removal of CHP+ enrollment fee

Individuals doing family planning:

- New reproductive health care services for people without documentation
- New family planning services for individuals up to 260% FPL

Policy Changes:

New reproductive health care services

- **What's new:**
 - People who would be eligible for Health First Colorado, if not for their citizenship or immigration status, are now eligible for contraception and family planning counseling.
 - People who enroll in this program will be enrolled for 12 months. After 12 months, members will receive a renewal.
 - A new question was added to the application that asks if individuals want to be considered for reproductive health benefits.
- **Talking points to use with clients:**
 - You may be able to get free birth control and family planning counseling from Health First Colorado no matter your immigration status.
 - You can apply for this benefit on the online PEAK application or using a paper application, and I can help you.

- **More information:**
 - [HCPF PM 22-005, Reproductive Health Services for Undocumented Individuals](#)

Extension of Emergency Medicaid to 12 months coverage

- **What's new:**
 - People enrolled in [Emergency Medicaid](#) now have emergency health coverage for 12 months. Previously, they were only enrolled for the specific instance of care.
 - After 12 months, the member will receive a renewal.
 - Services must still be considered emergency treatment to be covered.
 - A new question was added to the application that asks if individuals want to be considered for coverage for treatment of emergency services.
- **Talking points to use with clients:**
 - Now, when you're enrolled in Emergency Medicaid, you are enrolled for a full year rather than having to re-apply every month.
 - You don't have to do anything special to get a full year of coverage, you'll get it automatically when you apply for Emergency Medicaid.
- **More information:**
 - [HCPF PM 22-006, Emergency Medicaid](#)

Removal of lawful presence requirement for state and local programs

- **What's new:**
 - Lawful presence is no longer a requirement for many state and local programs.
 - Below is a non-exhaustive list of programs included in this change:
 - Colorado Indigent Care Program (CICP)
 - Dental Health Program for Low-Income Seniors
 - Old Age Pension
 - Adult Financial
 - Colorado Child Care Assistance Program
- **Talking points to use with clients:**
 - You can now apply for lots of benefit in Colorado, no matter your immigration status. Unfortunately, you still aren't eligible for Health First Colorado or CHPI+.
- **More information:**
 - [SB21-199: Remove Barriers to Certain Public Opportunities](#)

Extended eligibility for Working adults With Disabilities benefit for individuals 65 and older

- **What's new:**

- The [Working Adults with Disabilities \(WAwD\) Program](#) is now available to individuals 65 and older. Previously, eligibility ended once an individual turned 65.
 - The expansion applies to new and existing members. All other eligibility criteria remains the same.
 - Benefits include Health First Colorado covered benefits.
- **Talking points to use with clients:**
 - You will stay enrolled in Buy-In coverage even after you turn 65. You don't have to do anything special, just continue fill out your renewal each year like normal.
 - To qualify for Buy-In, you don't have to be legally disabled. If you have a complicated medical condition, like diabetes or cancer, you might qualify for this benefit.
- **More information:**
 - HCPF, [Expanding Working Adults with Disabilities \(WAwD\) Programs for 65 and Older FAQ](#)
 - HCPF, [Implementation of the Medicaid Buy-In Program for Age 65 and Older Presentation](#)
 - [HCPF PM 22-002, Implementation Of Health First Colorado Buy-In Program For Working Adults With Disabilities: Age 65 And Older Population](#)

New family planning services for individuals up to 260% FPL

- **What's new:**
 - People with incomes between 134-260% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) who are not eligible for another full coverage benefit are eligible for limited family planning services.
 - Family planning services include contraceptives and counseling services focused on preventing, delaying, or planning a pregnancy.
 - Coloradans can apply for this benefit through PEAK or the paper application or through a Presumptive Eligibility site.
 - All applicants will be asked if they want to opt-out of receiving these services when submitting an application.
- **Talking points to use with clients:**
 - Even though you're not eligible for Health First Colorado or CHP+, you might be able to get free birth control and family planning services.
 - You can apply for this benefit on the online PEAK application or using a paper application, and I can help you.
- **More information:**
 - [HCPF PM 22-004, Medical Assistance New Limited Family Planning Services Income Expansion](#)

Postpartum expansion to 12 months for Health First Colorado and CHP+ members

- **What's new:**

- Pregnant people enrolled in Health First Colorado or CHP+ are covered for 12 months after the end of pregnancy, regardless of changes in income. Previously, coverage was for 60 days after the end of pregnancy.
 - End of pregnancy includes events such as delivery, miscarriage, and termination.
 - To get this benefit, pregnant people must report their pregnancy through PEAK, the Health First CO app, or their county. CHP+ members can contact the CHP+ helpline.
 - Members do not need to apply, and will be kept on benefits regardless of changes in circumstances, such as income or family size.
 - This coverage can be retroactive.
- **Talking points to use with clients:**
 - If you are enrolled in Health First Colorado or CHP+, you can get health coverage for a year after the end of your pregnancy. Just so you know, end of pregnancy can mean having a baby, but it can also mean having a miscarriage or terminating a pregnancy. If you experienced a miscarriage, there are lots of other resources available to you.
 - You don't need to apply for this benefit, you just need to tell Health First Colorado that you are pregnant or recently gave birth (or experienced the end of a pregnancy), so that you can get this coverage.
 - **More information:**
 - [HCPF PM 22-003 Postpartum Expansion to 12 Months](#)

Removal of CHP+ enrollment fee

- **What's new:**
 - There is no longer an enrollment fee for CHP+ membership.
- **Talking points to use with clients:**
 - You don't have to pay an enrollment fee to enroll in or renew CHP+ coverage.