

ADVOCACY DENVER

providing active voice and supporting civil rights
for people with disabilities

**Community Mental Health Supports Waiver
(CMHS)**

Community Mental Health Supports Waiver (CMHS)

- A waiver is an extra set of Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid program) benefits that you could qualify for in certain cases. These benefits can help you remain in your home and community.
- The Community Mental Health Supports Waiver (CMHS) provides assistance to people with a mental illness that requires long-term supports and services in order to remain in a community setting.

Community Mental Health Supports Waiver (CMHS)

- CMHS services work with or add to the services that you receive through the Health First Colorado State Plan and other federal, state, and local public programs.
- CMHS also works with the supports that families and communities provide.
- If you receive services through the CMHS waiver, you are also eligible for all Health First Colorado covered services except nursing facility and long-term hospital care.

How do I Qualify?

Level of Care

- You must require long-term support services at a level comparable to services typically provided in a nursing facility.

Eligibility Group

- A person experiencing severe and persistent mental health needs that require assistance with one or more Activities of Daily Living (ADLs)
 - 18 years of age or older with a severe and persistent mental health need,
 - Currently has or at any time during the past year leading up to assessment has a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder of sufficient duration to meet diagnostic criteria specified with the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5), and
 - Has a disorder that is episodic, recurrent, or has persistent features, but may vary in terms of severity and disabling effects, and
 - Has resulted in functional impairment which substantially interferes with or limits one or more major activities.

How do I Qualify?

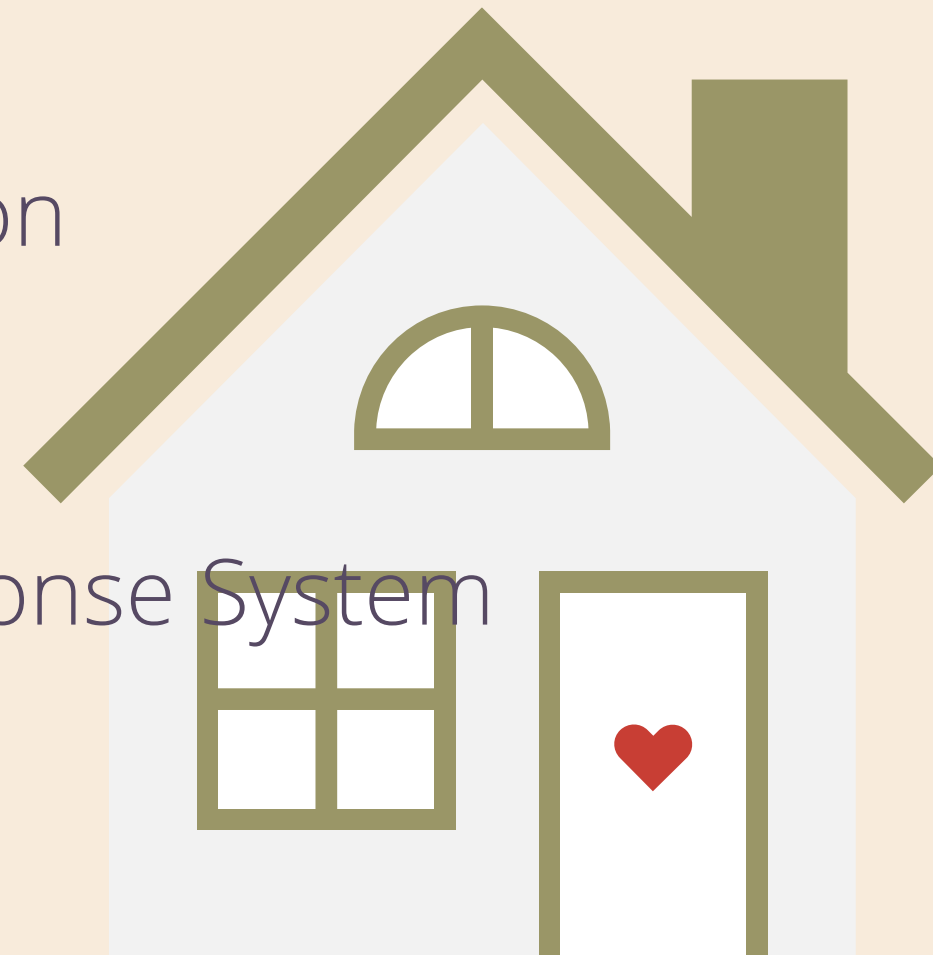
Financial

- Your income must be less than three times the current Federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) limit per month. (See SSI website for current information)
- For a single person, your countable resources must be less than \$2,000.
- For a couple, the countable resources must be less than \$3,000.
- If you do not meet these financial requirements, you may be eligible through the Health First Colorado Buy-In Program for Working Adults with Disabilities.



Benefits and Services

- Home Delivered Meals
- Home Modifications
- Homemaker Services
- Life Skills Training
- Medication Reminder
- Mental Health Counseling
- Non-Medical Transportation
- Peer Mentorship
- Personal Care
- Personal Emergency Response System
- Respite Care
- Transition Set Up



Benefits and Services

- **Consumer Directed Attendant Support Services (CDASS)**

- Consumer Directed Attendant Support Services (CDASS) lets you direct and manage the attendants who provide your personal care, homemaker and health maintenance services, rather than working through an agency. Through CDASS, you are empowered to hire, train and manage attendants of your choice to best fit your unique needs or you may delegate these responsibilities to an Authorized Representative.



Benefits and Services

- Adult Day Services help you live independently in the community. Services are given in an Adult Day Center. Services include basic social and health services such as:
 - Social and recreational services
 - Help with daily activities like eating, dressing and bathing
 - Emergency services
 - Nutrition services
 - Health monitoring services
 - Medication supervision
 - Special services for more complex needs



Benefits and Services

- Alternative Care Facilities (ACF) provide assistive living services so you can stay in the community.
- Residences are licensed and certified.
- Services include:
 - 24-hour oversight
 - Medication Administration
 - Personal Care
 - Homemaker Services
- You pay the full cost of room and board and may have to share the cost of the services.



Commonly Needed Documentation

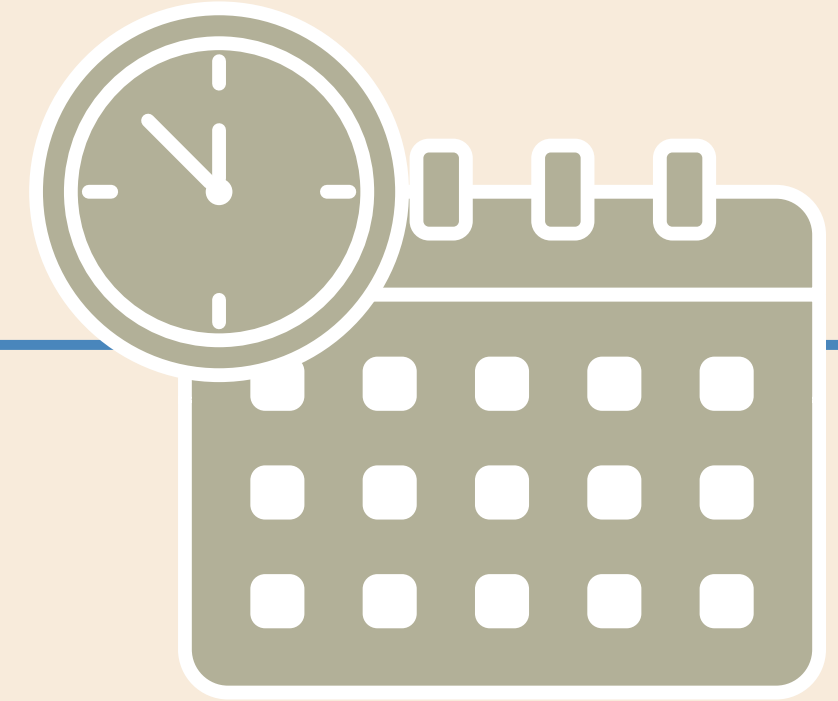
- Documented diagnosis
- Medical documentation to justify level of care services
- Daily breakdown of activities of daily living and how long each activity lasts



Where do I Start?

- Apply at your county's Single Entry Point (SEP)
 - List of SEPs by county: [/hcpf.colorado.gov/single-entry-point-agencies](https://hcpf.colorado.gov/single-entry-point-agencies)
- Denver County Residents apply at Rocky Mountain Human Services
 - 9900 E. Iliff Avenue, Denver, CO 80231
 - Main Phone: 1-844-790-RMHS (7647)
 - Website: www.rmhumanservices.org

Timeline



- 90 -180 days start to finish
- Timely response is key - always get your required documentation in as soon as possible.
- CDASS requires mandatory training before services start that can take up to 45 days to complete, depending on the individual.
- CDASS services require set up with an outside payroll agency and your employees must complete a packet and background check. This may take up to 15 days.