



Human/Social Services County-State Agency Partnerships

- Department of Human Services (CDHS)
- Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF)
- Colorado Department of Early Childhood (CDEC)
- Behavioral Health Administration (BHA)
- Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE)
- Department of Local Affairs (DOLA)

Colorado's Human/Social Services Structure

- Services are mandated by State statute
- State-supervised and County-administered
- CDHS, HCPF, and CDEC provide funding, promulgate rules, develop programs, provide training and technical assistance, and monitor and enforce compliance
- Counties have the primary responsibility to employ staff and administer programs
- Director is appointed
- Counties are required to follow Merit System requirements regarding personnel matters including hiring, performance evaluations, and compensation

Mandated Services

- Economic Security:
 - Child Care Assistance
 - Food Assistance (SNAP)
 - Colorado Works (TANF)
 - Adult Financial programs
 - Medical Assistance
 - Low-Income Energy Assistance
- Adoptions and Foster Care
- Adult Protection
- Child Welfare
- Child Support Services
- Therapeutic and Supportive Services (Core Services)



Discretionary Services

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- Housing
 - Employment First
 - Single Entry Point
 - Senior Services
 - Veterans Service Office
 - Workforce Center
 - Disability Navigators

Child Welfare

- Goals are Safety, Permanency and Well-being
- 113,612 referrals in SFY 2022. Assessed 34,034.
- Differential Response implemented in 2014. High-risk assessments vs family assessment response. County option.
- Least-restrictive response leads to safety plans, natural supports. Out-of-home placement into foster care is last choice.
- Reunification is primary goal

Adoptions and Foster Care

- Kinship care and certified foster homes through counties and child placement agencies
- Voluntary placement agreements or court-ordered temporary custody
- Assistance agreements in adoptions, guardianships, and allocation of parental responsibilities, which means that children receive Medicaid and some families receive financial subsidies



Higher Level Placements

- High acuity placements – children and youth with higher needs, such as Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD), sexualized behavior, physical acting-out
- Family First Prevention Services Act – federal law
- Independent assessments
- Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTP) and Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF)
- Statewide shortage of placements for high-acuity children and youth. May be placed out of state. Worst-case scenario = child/youth is supervised in county office or hotel/motel.



Therapeutic and Supportive (Core) Services

- Home-based family therapy
- Intensive family therapy
- Life skills
- Day treatment
- Sexual abuse therapy
- Mental health services
- Substance use disorder services
- Special economic assistance
- County-designed services (optional)

Adult Protection

- “At-Risk Adult” = 18 years of age or older who (1) is unable to perform or obtain services necessary for health, safety, or welfare, or (2) lacks capacity to make or communicate responsible decisions
- 26,641 referrals in SFY 2022. Assessed 8,864
- Guardianships, conservatorships, and representative payee

Child Support Services

- Purpose is to establish and collect support in order to assist persons to achieve or maintain financial independence
- Mandated in some programs for parents with children under age 18 who are receiving cash benefits; available to all
- 2Gen focus
- 127,505 cases open in FFY 2022
- Almost \$324 million collected for children in FFY 2022

Economic Security (slide 1)

- Child Care assistance for families who are eligible through income and activity rules. 26,136 children in SFY 2022, total assistance almost \$143 million
- Food Assistance (SNAP) for individuals or families. Monthly average of 271,775 households and almost \$142 million in monthly benefits in SFY 2022. Work or training hours are required for some recipients
- Colorado Works (TANF) for low-income parents/caregivers with children under age 18. Basic cash grant. Work requirements. 60-month maximum. 12,411 households in SFY 2022, total BCA almost \$68 million

Economic Security (slide 2)

- Adult Financial Programs
 - Aid to the Blind
 - Old Age Pension
 - Aid to the Needy Disabled
 - Home Care Allowance
- Medical Assistance – 1,714,052 individuals as of 11/30/2022 (almost 30% of total population)
 - Medicaid
 - Child Health Plan Plus
 - Long-Term Care

Human Services Funding (slide 1)

- Federal/State/County share varies by program
- 100% Federal/State: Part of Child Protection and Core Services; all financial benefits except TANF and Child Care assistance
- 90% Federal/State and 10% County: Adoption assistance; limited Child Protection staff positions
- 80% Federal/State and 20% County: Adult Protection; Foster Care; and majority of Child Welfare, Economic Security, and Core Services
- 66% Federal/State and 34% County: Child Support Services
- Maintenance of Effort: TANF (15%) and Child Care Assistance (11%)


Human Services Funding (slide 2)

- Child Care, Child Welfare and Colorado Works have allocation committees that are mandated by statute. 8 members appointed by CCI and 3 by CDEC or CDHS.
- Other allocations have work groups that are not mandated. Provide recommendations to CDHS/HCPF
- Most funding is allocations, not grants
- Different factors are included in each formula, often includes level of poverty and caseload
- Certain programs require annual plans or IGAs to access funding

Trends and opportunities (slide 1)

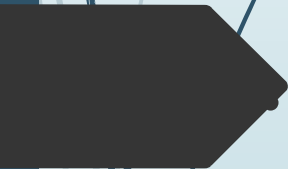
- Federal Omnibus bill: (1) Maximum allotment of SNAP benefits ends 2/2023. (2) Re-determine eligibility for Medicaid recipients who stayed on MA since March 2020
- Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA): Expand evidence-based services; Expand local out-of-home continuum to keep high-needs kids in community; Restricts funding for congregate care placements
- Child Support 2Gen: Develop programs to assist parents to increase income and stability

Trends and opportunities (slide 2)

- Workforce Development: Collaborate with community partners to provide SNAP and TANF recipients with skills and supports to gain stable employment
 - Workload studies being completed in County Administration, Child Welfare, and Adult Protection
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- Statewide Emergency Support Function 6 (ESF6 Mass Care) analysis being completed
- Universal Pre-Kindergarten starts in 2023

Questions and answers (slide 1)

- What is the financial impact of Human Services programs on county budgets? (A) Depending on discretionary programs, Human Services programs overall are funded about 80-85% Federal/State, 15-20% County.
- Can the county charge rent? (A) Only up to the fair share of the building's depreciation cost.



Can an individual be on financial assistance forever? (A) It depends. Hardships are determined on a case-by-case basis. Disabilities and age may not change. Training and other support can be provided.

Questions and answers (slide 2)

- Is there a lot of fraud in these programs? (A) All counties investigate fraud depending on their staffing capacity. Multiple interfaces automatically check for discrepancies between what people report and what they earn/receive. Counties receive part of funds that are recouped if fraud is found.
- Are there outcome expectations? (A) Counties are constantly monitored by the state regarding accuracy, timeliness, child and adult safety, adherence to mandated processes, and multiple other audit points. C-Stat and MAP reports come out monthly.



Thank you for your service to your community

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