



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

February 2021

### 2021 Legislative Session

The Colorado General Assembly convened for three days in January to swear in the new members and take action on certain COVID-specific bills. The General Assembly is scheduled to reconvene on February 16, and stay in session through May.

### Budget Update

FY 2020-21 Update: The Joint Budget approved significant additional funding for various provider rates (called “sustainability rates for providers”) including Adult Day Care, Day Habilitation, Supported Employment, and Non-Medical Transportation. These rate increases (27.4 percent) are retroactive to July, and are temporary for FY 2020-21.

Planning for FY 2021-22: The Joint Budget Committee is working towards introducing the state’s budget bill (aka the “Long Bill”) in late March. There is still considerable uncertainty regarding state revenues, as well as any impact of federal relief. The JBC has approved an increase of 2.5 percent in provider rates for FY 2021-22.

*All JBC decisions are subject to change.*

### Legislation/Issue Update

1. End subminimum wage. There will be legislation in 2021 to end the subminimum wage in Colorado. There will be a multiyear implementation timeline for those agencies that will be impacted.
2. Case Management Redesign. The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing is coordinating the introduction of a case management redesign bill in 2021. The stated goals are to build a “conflict free case management system to serve all populations” including the IDD community, older adults, persons with physical disabilities, and persons with mental health needs. HCPF wants to continue to work towards creating a new case management system as of July 1, 2024.
3. Training for Law Enforcement
  - a. Disability Symbol Identification Document, which gives the option for a person with a disability to request that the Department of Revenue place a discreet disability identifier on the person’s driver’s license.
  - b. Peace Officer Neurodiversity Training, which requires that Peace Officer Standards and Training Board to report to the General Assembly by 12/31/2021 on training for law enforcement officers on interacting with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
4. Alternative Response Pilot Program. Colorado Counties, Inc. is exploring legislation to establish an alternative response pilot program that a participating county department can utilize when it receives a report of mistreatment or self-neglect of an at-risk adult

who has been identified as being lower risk, as defined by rules promulgated by the state department of human services.

5. Non-Medical Transportation. Alliance is supporting legislation to shift the oversight of non-medical transportation from the Public Utilities Commission to the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. This is intended to eliminate certain Medicaid Transport requirements for IDD providers.
6. Transfer of Early Intervention Oversight from CDE to CDHS. The Governor's Office requests a legislative change to shift the oversight of Early Intervention from the Department of Education to the Department of Human Services. I am unaware that any legislator will introduce the requested legislation.

