



COLORADO

Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

Individual Residential Services and Supports Fact Sheet

December 2017

Background

A "Host Home Provider" is an individual (or individuals) who provides residential supports in his/her home to persons receiving comprehensive services who are not family members. Residential support provided by a host home is considered a Home and Community Based Service called Individual Residential Services and Supports (IRSS) within the Persons for Developmental Disabilities (HCBS-DD) Waiver.

Program Approved Service Agencies (PASAs) are the entities the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (the Department) approves to administer IRSS. A Host Home provider contracts with a PASA to provide residential supports to an individual. As the approved agency, the PASA has the responsibility for the individual's living environment, including the selection and safety of that environment. Further, PASAs are surveyed by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to ensure compliance with IRSS regulations. The PASA is then responsible for ensuring Host Homes providing IRSS meet all regulations.

Host Homes provide an opportunity for individual choice and preference to live and interact in the community while residing in a home-like environment. Because of this, host homes are not institutional or segregated environments and are not regulated as such.

Current Regulations

IRSS operation and safety standards are outlined in Department regulations at 10 CCR 2505-10 Sections 8.500 and 8.600. PASAs are surveyed for regulatory compliance at least once every three years and upon receipt of a complaint filed with the Department of Public Health and Environment. If a PASA provides IRSS through Host Homes, Host Homes are included in the survey. The PASA is required to provide ongoing monitoring of Host Homes to ensure IRSS are provided and safety standards are met according to regulatory requirements.

Our mission is to improve health care access and outcomes for the people we serve while demonstrating sound stewardship of financial resources.
www.colorado.gov/hcpf



The following are some examples of requirements specified in regulation for host homes as providers of IRSS settings:

- The PASA must provide regular on-site monitoring of Host Homes.¹
- Host homes must at minimum, meet HUD Section 8 Housing Quality Standards.²
- The host home (exterior and interior) and grounds shall be maintained in good repair to protect the health, comfort, and safety of individuals. The home shall also be free of offensive odors, accumulation of dirt, rubbish, and dust.³
- The host home shall have two means of exit from floors with rooms used for sleeping.⁴
- All areas of the host home needing to be accessed by individuals who use a wheelchair or other assistive technology devices shall be accessible.⁵
- The primary entry to the host home of a person receiving services who utilizes a wheelchair or other assistive technology devices shall be accessible.⁶
- A fire extinguisher shall be available in each host home.⁷
- Smoke detectors shall be installed in each host home to meet HUD requirements and/or local ordinances.⁸
- Each host home shall have first aid supplies.⁹
- Each individual living in a host home must have a written plan on how emergencies such as fire, severe weather, serious accidents, and illness.¹⁰

Possible Changes for IRSS Regulations

The Department intends to bolster the regulations for Host Homes as providers of IRSS under the authorities established in C.R.S. 25.5-10. The Department has conducted a review of the regulations and drafting revisions strengthen regulations for PASA monitoring, fire safety

¹ 10 CCR 2505-10 8.609.5.(B)(4)

² 10 CCR 2505-10, 8.609(A)(4)

³ 10 CCR 2505-10 8.609(A)(5)(a)-(c)

⁴ 10 CCR 2505-10, 8.609(A)(6)

⁵ 10 CCR 2505-10, 8.609(A)(9)

⁶ 10 CCR 2505-10, 8.609(A)(10)

⁷ 10 CCR 2505-10, 8.609(B)(4)

⁸ 10 CCR 2505-10, 8.609(B)(5)

⁹ 10 CCR 2505-10, 8.609(B)(6)

¹⁰ 10 CCR 2505-10 8.609.7.(B)(2)(a)-(c)

Our mission is to improve health care access and outcomes for the people we serve while demonstrating sound stewardship of financial resources.

www.colorado.gov/hcpf



practices, environmental safety, and emergency plans. The Department plans to begin stakeholder engagement and the rule making process in early 2018.

While the Department believes our administrative authority to bolster regulations will further ensure safety within all IRSS settings, including Host Homes, there is not statutory authority specific to IRSS.

The Colorado Revised Statutes at 25.5-10-214 include statutory regulations for community residential homes (group homes). This section gives the Department the authority to develop standards for group homes for health, life, and fire safety, promulgate rules for those standards, the authority to survey group homes, and to take corrective action if standards or rules are not met.

The Department has identified the option of adding a similar section to C.R.S. 25.5-10 that would pertain to IRSS (including host homes) that would give the Department the authority to develop additional standards for health, life, and fire safety, promulgate rules for those standards, the authority to survey host homes, and to take corrective action if standards or rules are not met.

For more information contact Zach Lynkiewicz, HCPF Legislative Liaison, at (720) 854-9882 or zach.lynkiewicz@state.co.us.

