



COMMUNITY- BASED SERVICES UNIT

WYOMING MEDICAID
DIVISION OF HEALTHCARE FINANCING

COMMUNITY CHOICES WAIVER PROGRAM COMMUNICATION BRIEF

Brief Ref: CCW-2020-CB02

To: Community Choices Waiver Service Providers

From: Tyler Deines, Community-Based Services Administrator 

Date: March 13, 2020

Subject: Guidance to Service Providers in Response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Purpose: To provide direction and guidance to Community Choices Waiver service providers in response to COVID-19.

Background: The Community Choices Waiver program provides eligible individuals access to an array of Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) as an alternative to the care provided in a nursing facility. Pursuant to 42 CFR §441.302(a), the Wyoming Department of Health, Division of Healthcare Financing (the Division) must assure the health and welfare of waiver participants by establishing adequate standards for waiver service providers and by ensuring that all waiver service providers meet all applicable licensure and certification requirements.

Procedure: Immediately upon release of this Communication Brief, service providers may be granted additional discretion in waiver service delivery in order to ensure participants maintain access to critical services as communities implement strategies to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The following temporary modifications to Community Choices Waiver provider qualifications and service specifications may be applied until further notice.

1. Limits on home-delivered meals will be temporarily increased to three meals per day in order to support individuals who are at increased risk for severe illness to avoid public gatherings and implement social distancing measures.
2. If disruptions in the workforce limit a service provider's ability to deliver critical Community Choices Waiver services, the service provider must inform the participant's case manager. Service providers may also contact the Division to request modifications to provider qualifications as necessary to assure participant health and welfare (e.g. the use of Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) to deliver skilled nursing care). Service provider staff must continue to deliver services within their respective scope of practice and consult with the Aging Division's Healthcare Licensure and Survey unit, the Wyoming State Board of Nursing, or other applicable regulatory agency for information on any potential modifications to those requirements.

3. Providers of covered waiver services who are not currently enrolled as a Community Choices Waiver provider may contact the Division for an expedited, temporary enrollment as needed to ensure participant access to critical waiver services.

For up-to-date information on the Wyoming Department of Health's response to COVID-19 and other useful links, service providers should visit: <https://health.wyo.gov/publichealth/infectious-disease-epidemiology-unit/disease/novel-coronavirus/>.