



August 3, 2020

Senator Michael Bennet
261 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bennet,

We write to ask that you support Home and Community-Based Services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities by stressing to Senator Schumer the need for dedicated HCBS-specific funding. This must be a top priority!

Alliance is a statewide, non-profit association of Community Centered Boards and service agencies serving Coloradans with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our 67 members operate in every Colorado county and serve tens of thousands of Colorado citizens and their families.

Specifically, we ask you to support the provisions outlined in Section 30103 of the HEROES Act, including a targeted HCBS FMAP increase. A global FMAP increase does not trickle down to our sector and is generally applied to hospitals, nursing homes, and overall state budget needs. Yet these funds are necessary to sustain the workforce that supports people with disabilities, the service providers who employ them, and the people who rely on our services to live safely in their homes and communities. Without the continuity of these services, millions of people with disabilities will be at risk of service disruption, lack of support to remain in their homes, and an increased risk for institutionalization.

The impact of COVID-19 on our members and the people they support has already been significant. We have providers experiencing substantial losses in revenue and increased costs due to COVID-19 specific, unanticipated expenses. These expenses include testing for staff, cleaning supplies, PPE, hazard pay, increased overtime, and more. IDD providers run on extremely slim margins to begin with, and the weight of this pandemic has stretched resources to the breaking point, especially since recent CMS guidance limited states' ability to provide retainer payments. In a recent national industry poll, 10.6 per cent of organizations who had to close at least one line of service due to the pandemic report that they will not reopen that program. This creates access issues for people with disabilities and further weakens their safety net.

We need your help to tell Senator Schumer that dedicated HCBS-specific funding is your top priority.

Sincerely,

Josh Rael, JD, MPA
Executive Director
jrael@alliancecolorado.org

Matt VanAuken
President
m.vanauken@dpcolo.org

Alliance is a statewide association of Community Centered Boards (CCBs) and Program Approved Service Agencies (PASAs) that provide services and supports to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Alliance members serve over 10,000 individuals with IDD and employ 3,200 DSPs and case managers throughout Colorado.
www.AllianceColorado.org



Alliance Members:

A Better Life Experience (ABLE)
A Brighter Community
Ability Specialists
Activity Options
Alpine Adult Day Care & Alpine Homecare
Ariel Clinical Services
Ascendigo Autism Services
Behavior Services of the Rockies
Belk Model, Inc.
Bethesda Lutheran Communities
Blue Peaks Developmental Services
C.A.R.E., Inc.
Cheyenne Village
Colorado Autism Consultants
Colorado Bluesky Enterprises
Community Advantage
Community Connections, Inc.
Community Link
Community Living Alternatives
Community Options
Community Support Services
Continuum of Colorado
Cottonwood Community Alternatives
Developmental Disabilities Resource Center
Developmental Pathways
Dungarvin Colorado
Dynamic Dimensions
Eastern Colorado Services for the Developmentally Disabled
Easterseals Colorado
Elevated Supports
Envision
Evergreen Service Providers
Foothills Gateway, Inc.
FRIENDS of Broomfield
Garden Inc.

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Imagine!
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Integrated Life Choices
Jewish Family Service
Jordan Residential and Vocational Services
Karuna Care Services
Laradon
Metro Support Services
Mosaic
Mountain Valley Developmental Services
North Metro Community Services
Oliver Behavioral Consultants
Overture
Parker Personal Care Homes
Pueblo Diversified Industries
Quality Life Services
Rehabilitative Rhythms
Rocky Mountain Human Services
Sample Supports
Schaefer Enterprises
Southeastern Developmental Services
Southern Colo DD Services
Starpoint
Stepping Stone Support Center
STRiVE
Support, Inc
The Child and Family Therapy Center of Denver
The Resource Exchange
Thrive Community Options
VitalCare
Wellspring Community

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August 3, 2020

Senator Cory Gardner
354 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Gardner,

We write to ask that you support Home and Community-Based Services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities by stressing to Senator McConnell the need for dedicated HCBS-specific funding. This must be a top priority!

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