

Frequently Asked Questions for Eligibility Changes for Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities in Colorado

Why is there a change? The previous rule did not allow for someone to qualify for DD services if they had an IQ over 70 even if their adaptive behaviors were low. This adversely affected many people on the autism spectrum.

What has changed? The rule will now allow adaptive behavior functioning as a criteria versus solely looking at cognitive abilities.

When is this change effective? August 1, 2013

What will this change mean? This is a historical change and will greatly impact Colorado's I/DD system forever. In the immediate future, however, it means we will be receiving more applications for services but no additional funding has been allocated at this point.

Will this change the application process? Yes. A common state application will be used for anyone turning age five or older and the process will put a greater emphasis on current testing, qualifications of test administrators and consistency across the state. At this point, determining if someone meets the developmental disability criteria still lies with the Community Centered Board (CCB) system. Horizons is one of twenty Community Centered Boards throughout the state of Colorado.

If some of the people who enroll in Horizons services will have higher IQs, but lower adaptive behavior skills, how will that affect the services Horizons provide? We don't know yet. At this point, the Waiver Services have not changed, but a Medicaid Waiver is approved for three years at a time. Each time the state of Colorado applies to the Federal Medicaid to renew a waiver, they ask for approval for modification. This is how potential changes will evolve.

What will Horizons be doing differently? The process will evolve over time. Here are four things we know.

1. We will have **two applications**: One for birth to four years old and one for age five or older.
2. Applicants will access general information from our website: www.horizonsnwc.org. Applicants may speak with their **Local Service Coordinators** about how to apply and will submit their completed application to their local Service Coordinator. Each document submitted as part of the application will be date stamped. When the application packet is complete, it will be **sent to the Determination Committee in Steamboat** to be evaluated.
3. The Determination Committee will evaluate if the application packet meets the criteria for Developmental Disability. The committee may request additional information from the applicant.
4. Due to the anticipated volume of applicants, the timeline for determination decisions has been extended to 90 days for the next 18 months. The determination date will be the date the last item in the application packet was marked as received.