

Acronym Quick Reference Guide

The disability system can be confusing. This Quick Reference Guide helps you better understand what acronyms you may hear and what they mean.

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This guide is meant to aid the community with easily locating and understanding frequently used acronyms in the disability world. This list is not exhaustive of all disability related acronyms, and is updated regularly.

100.2 – Level of Care Assessment for **HCBS** Waiver Programs – determines eligibility for disability services.

AAA – Area Agency on Aging – provides comprehensive services to address the needs of the region's population of older adults and people living with disabilities.

AAC - Augmented and Alternative Communication Devices – a computer, tablet or laptop, that helps someone with a speech or language impairment.

ABA - Applied Behavioral Analysis – a type of therapy that focuses on improving specific behaviors such as social skills, communication, reading, and adaptive learning skills (grooming, domestic capabilities, etc.)

ACA – Affordable Care Act - comprehensive health care reform law and amendments. The law addresses health insurance coverage, health care costs, and preventive care.

ACF – Alternative Care Facility - Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid program) certified assisted living residences that offer elders and persons with disabilities health services in a community setting, which include: 24-hour protective oversight, daily living skill assistance, and personal care services.

AD – Adaptive Device – refers to equipment that help people with disabilities with activities of daily living such as bathing, dressing, feeding, dressing, etc.

ADA - Americans with Disabilities Act - a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination based on disability.

ADAPT – American Disabled for Attendant Programs Today - a United States grassroots disability rights organization.

ADC – Adult Day Center (Adult Day Care) – a non-residential, professionally staffed business that provides day services and may provide supports to individuals such a nutritional, social, and daily living needs of adults.

ADD or ADHD – Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder - People with ADHD may have trouble paying attention, controlling impulsive behaviors (may act without thinking about what the result will be), or be overly active.

ADL – Activities of Daily Living - activities related to personal care. A few examples include bathing, dressing, grooming, transferring, mobility, toileting, and eating.

ADS – Adult Day Services - a non-residential, professionally staffed business that provides day services and may provide supports to individuals such a nutritional, social, and daily living needs of adults.

AL, ALF, or ALR – Assisted Living Facility or Residence - a type of housing designed for people who need various levels of medical and personal care. Living spaces can be individual rooms, apartments, or shared quarters. The facilities generally provide a home-like setting and are physically designed to promote the resident's independence.

AND-SSI – Aid to the Needy Disabled- Social Security Income - a cash assistance benefit to low-income Colorado residents who have a disability that prevents them from working. The program provides interim financial assistance while the person pursues Supplemental Security Income benefits.

APS – Adult Protective Services – investigates allegations of mistreatment, abuse, neglect, harmful acts, self-neglect of at-risk adults (persons age 18 and older who are unable to provide or obtain services necessary for their health, safety, and welfare OR who have limited ability to make or understand responsible decisions).

APSE – Association of People Supporting Employment First – The national organization focusing on the advancement of inclusive, meaningful employment for individuals with disabilities.

AR – Authorized Representative - an individual designated by a person with a disability or the legal guardian, if appropriate, who has the judgment and ability to assist the person in acquiring and utilizing supports and services.

ASD – Autism Spectrum Disorder – a developmental disability characterized by challenges with social interaction, communication and behavior.

ASL – American Sign Language - a visual language that is expressed usually with a person's hands.

AT – Assistive Technology –item, piece of equipment, software program, or product that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the capabilities of a person with a disability.

BASL – Black American Sign Language – a dialect of American Sign Language used most commonly by deaf Black Americans in the United States.

BD - Behavior Disorder - a pattern of disruptive behavior that may cause challenges in school, at home and in social situations.

BH – Behavioral Health – refers to daily cognitive habits affecting overall well-being, emotions, biology, and behavior.

BI – Brain Injury (waiver) – a Home and Community Based Service waiver that helps people with a brain injury who need extra support to live in their communities.

BIP – Behavior Intervention Plan - a written plan created for a student based on the outcome of a functional behavior assessment (FBA).

BIPOC-PWD – Black, Indigenous, People of Color and with Disabilities – the intersectional identities of people with these identities.

LGBTQIA+-PWD – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual People with Disabilities – the intersectional identities of people with these identities.

BUS – Benefits Utilization System – a web-based system maintained by HCPF (Department of Health Care Policy and Financing) for recording case management activities associated with LTC (Long Term Care) services.

CBMS – Colorado Benefits Management System - Colorado's statewide database system through which eligibility is determined for medical, food, cash and other assistance programs.

CC – Closed Captioning – visual text to accompany a video to increase accessibility. Closed Captioning can be controlled (turned on and off) by the user.

CCB – Community Centered Board- provides intake and Resource Coordination (Case Management) services for individuals with developmental disabilities. CCBs support access to Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) through Medicaid waivers for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS).

CCDC – Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition – a Colorado disability rights and advocacy organization.

CDASS – Consumer-Directed Attendant Support Services – lets a person with a disability direct and manage the attendants who provide their personal care, homemaker and health maintenance services, rather than working with an agency. The person can select, train and manage attendants of their choice and also set pay rates. They may have an Authorized Representative to help coordinate CDASS.

CDDC - Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council - advocates for systems change by promoting meaningful person-centered participation, self-determination and inclusion for all individuals with developmental disabilities.

CDE - Colorado Department of Education - department of Colorado state government that is responsible for public education.

CDHS – Colorado Department of Human Services - department of Colorado state government that is responsible for the social service programs such as welfare, protective services, and independent living.

CDOT – Colorado Department of Transportation - department of Colorado state government that is responsible for public transportation.

CDPHE – Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment - department of Colorado state government that is responsible for the state's environmental regulation and public health and wellness.

CES – Children's Extensive Support (waiver) – a Home and Community Based Service waiver that provides supports and services to children and youth (birth through age 17) with developmental disabilities who have a significant medical or behavioral condition.

CHCBS – Children's Home and Community Based Services (waiver) - a Home and Community Based Service waiver that provides supports and services to children and youth (birth through age 17) with disabilities who would otherwise be ineligible for Health First Colorado (MEDICAID) due to excess parental income and/or resources.

CHI – Complimentary and Integrated Health waiver – provides a home or community based alternative to nursing care for persons with a spinal cord injury (traumatic and nontraumatic), multiple sclerosis, brain injury, spina bifida, muscular dystrophy, or cerebral palsy with the inability for independent ambulation resulting from one of these conditions.

CHP+ – Children's Health Plan Plus – a public low-cost health insurance for certain children and pregnant women. It is for people who earn too much to qualify for Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid program), but not enough to pay for private health insurance.

CHIP – Children's Health Insurance Program – a low-cost health insurance coverage option for children in families that earn too much money to qualify for Medicaid.

CHRP - Children's Habilitation Residential Program (waiver) - a Home and Community Based Service waiver that provides supports and services to children and youth (birth through age 20) with intellectual or developmental disabilities and are at risk for institutionalization due to their extraordinary needs.

CICP – Colorado Indigent Care Program – a discounted health care services program for low-income individuals and families in Colorado.

CIE – Competitive Integrative Employment – Employment for individuals with disabilities that is interactive with the general community and has advancement opportunities equal to those without disabilities in similar positions.

CLLI – Children with Life-Limiting Illness (waiver) – a Home and Community Based Service waiver to provide Health First Colorado benefits in the home for children with a life-limiting illness and to allow the family to seek curative treatment while the child is receiving palliative or hospice care.

CM – Case Manager - assesses, plans, implements, coordinates, monitors and evaluates options and services required to meet a person's health and human service needs.

CMA – Case Management Agency - assesses, plans, implements, coordinates, monitors and evaluates the options and services required to meet a person's health and human service needs.

CMHC – Community Mental Health Center - mental health treatment services for individuals who are low-income or not covered by insurance throughout Colorado.

CMHI – Colorado Mental Health Institutes (In Pueblo and Ft. Logan) - acute care psychiatric hospital that provides inpatient behavioral health services for adults, adolescents and geriatric patients.

CMHS – Community Mental Health Supports (waiver) - a Home and Community Based Service waiver that provides a home or community based alternative for persons with major mental illness.

CMS – Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services - is a federal agency within the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that administers the Medicare program and works in partnership with state governments to administer Medicaid.

COLA – Cost of Living Adjustment – adjustments to social security and other benefits based on the cost of living as determined by Consumer Price Index.

CP - Cerebral Palsy - a group of disorders that affect a person's ability to move and maintain balance and posture.

CRP – Community Rehabilitation Provider – support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to find work in their communities.

CRS - Colorado Revised Statute – laws edited and revised by the Colorado Office of Legislative Legal Services.

CTS – Community Transition Services - for individuals transitioning from institutional settings or other group living arrangements to a less restrictive environment.

CWA – Children with Autism – children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Day Hab. – Day Habilitation - programs designed to maximize a person's independence in activities of daily living, personal health and socialization that they usually attend during the daytime.

DB - Deaf blindness – a combination of hearing and vision loss..

DD – Developmental Disability – conditions due to an impairment in physical, learning, language, or behavior areas that begin during the developmental period, may impact day-to-day functioning, and usually last throughout a person's lifetime.

DD - Developmental Disability (waiver) - a Home and Community Based Service waiver for persons (18 and older) with developmental disabilities 24-hour services and supports which allow them to continue to safely live in the community.

D/HOH - Deaf/Hard of Hearing – hearing impairments and loss.

DME – Durable Medical Equipment - medical equipment used in the home to aid in a better quality of living.

DOBE – Disability-Owned Business Enterprise – a certified for-profit business that is at least 51% owned, managed, and controlled by a person with a disability.

DOE – Department of Education – The Federal department responsible for establishing and executing educational policies as well as federal assistance for educational resources.

DOH – Division of Housing – Colorado state government office that manages housing opportunity and assistance.

DOLA – Department of Local Affairs - department of Colorado state government responsible for local government assistance, property taxation, property assessment appeals, affordable housing, and housing construction regulation

DVR – Division of Vocational Rehabilitation - Colorado state government office that assists people with disabilities prepare for, obtain, advance in, and maintain a job.

EBD – Elderly, Blind and Disabled (waiver) - a Home and Community Based Service waiver to provide a home or community based alternative to nursing facility care for elderly persons with a functional impairment (ages 65+) or blind or physically disabled persons (ages 18-64).

EBT/EFT – Electronic Benefit Funds Transfer – an electronic payment system via a payment card with which recipients receive government assistance funds such as food stamps (SNAP) or other cash assistance programs.

ECE - Early Childhood Education – programs focused on developmental milestones for children from birth to 8 years of age.

ECSE - Early Childhood Special Education – specially designed instruction to meet the unique needs of a pre-school aged child.

EEOC – Equal Employment Opportunity Commission – The federal agency responsible for administering and enforcing civil rights laws against workplace discrimination.

EI – Early Intervention – supports and services available to help young children and babies with developmental delays and disabilities, such as speech or physical therapy.

EPSDT – Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment – a Medicaid benefit for individuals 20 years of age or younger, as well as pregnant adults, that provide health benefits to assess and identify problems early, at age-appropriate intervals, screen for physical, mental, developmental, dental, hearing, and vision problems, diagnose and treat.

ESL - English as a Second Language – term for the use or study of the English language by non-native speakers.

FASD – Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder – a spectrum of conditions that can occur in a child that results from alcohol exposure before birth. This can include Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.

FASD United – a nonprofit organization that educates the public, professionals, and policymakers about alcohol use during pregnancy. *NOTE: FASD United was formally known as NOFAS.

FAPE – Free Appropriate Public Education – a federal legal right covered under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) that guarantees students with disabilities to get a free specialized education.

FBA – Functional Behavior Assessment – a process schools implement to identify problem behaviors and develop interventions to improve or eliminate the behavior, called a Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP).

FN – Functional Needs – ability to perform daily activities.

FNSS – Functional Needs Support Services – enable individuals to maintain their independence, often in terms of staying in general population emergency shelters.

FSSP – Family Support Services Program – a program to assist families who have a child with developmental disabilities or delays and allow them to remain in a family setting.

GRSS - Group Residential Services and Supports – a residence for persons with developmental disabilities, where they have rotating staff in a house and have four to eight residents residing in the home.

HB – House Bill – a legal (legislative) proposal to congress.

HCA – Home Care Allowance - a financial assistance program for elderly, low income and / or disabled Colorado residents.

HCBS – Home and Community-Based Services – an extra set of Medicaid benefits that, through a waiver, can provide people with disabilities services to remain in their home and community. Example services could include: day programs, respite, personal care, transportation, and supported employment to name a few.

HCBS-BI - Persons with Brain Injury waiver - helps people with a brain injury who need extra support to live in their communities.

HCBS-CES - Children's Extensive Support waiver - provides supports and services to children and youth (birth through age 17) with developmental disabilities or delays due to the severity of their disability.

HCBS-CHCBS - Children's Home and Community Based Services waiver - provides supports and services to children and youth (birth through age 17) with disabilities who would otherwise be ineligible for Health First Colorado (Medicaid) due to excess parental income and/or resources.

HCBS-CHI – Complimentary and Integrated Health waiver – provides a home or community based alternative to nursing care for persons with a spinal cord injury (traumatic and nontraumatic), multiple sclerosis, brain injury, spina bifida, muscular dystrophy, or cerebral palsy with the inability for independent ambulation resulting from one of these conditions.

HCBS-CHRP - Children's Habilitation Residential Program waiver - provides supports and services to children and youth (birth through age 20) with intellectual or developmental disabilities and are at risk for institutionalization due to their extraordinary needs.

HCBS-CLLI - Children with Life-Limiting Illness waiver - provides Health First Colorado benefits in the home for children with a life-limiting illness and to allow the family to seek curative treatment while the child is receiving palliative or hospice care.

HCBS-CMHS - Community Mental Health Supports waiver - provides a home or community based alternative to nursing facility care for persons with major mental illness.

HCBS-DD - Developmental Disability waiver - provides persons (18 and older) with developmental disabilities 24-hour services and supports which allow them to continue to safely live in the community.

HCBS-EBD - Elderly, Blind, and Disabled waiver - provides a home or community based alternative to nursing facility care for elderly persons with a functional impairment (ages 65+) or blind or physically disabled persons (ages 18-64).

HCBS-SLS - Supported Living Services Waiver – provides persons with developmental disabilities (ages 18+) supports and services (less than 24 hours a day).

HCDF - Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing – the Colorado state government department that administers Medicaid and other health programs.

HUD – Housing and Urban Development – federal government department that provides housing supports and assistance.

IADL - Instrumental Activities of Daily Living – personal care and basic everyday activities such as bathing, dressing, getting in and out of bed, walking, using the toilet, eating, and more.

ICD-9 - International Classification of Disability and Diseases – the international list of codes for disease and disability used by the CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) in the United States.

ICF - Intermediate Care Facilities – a residential facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities (Certified by Medicaid) to provide specialized supports while promoting functional independence.

IDD – Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities – an umbrella term to describe a diverse group of disabilities that are often present in childhood and affect the trajectory of an individual's physical and/or intellectual development. Examples of IDDs include ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder), CP (Cerebral Palsy), Epilepsy, Down Syndrome, FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder) and many more.

IDEA - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act – United States law passed in 1975 that guarantees specialized education in as mainstream of an environment as possible, otherwise known as a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE), to children and youth with disabilities.

IDT – Intensive Day Treatment – an education program designed to support children and adolescents who are not currently dangerous and who are experiencing a crisis at home and/or school. The program provides short-term, intensive intervention, treatment, and educational support.

IDT - Inter-Disciplinary Team – a group of professional and direct care staff that are primarily responsible for the development of a Service Plan for an individual receiving HCBS.

IEP - Individualized Education Program – lays out the special education instruction, supports, and services a student with a disability will need to thrive in school.

IFSP - Individualized Family Service Plan – a written treatment plan to map out the early intervention services that a child (usually ages 0-3) will need to assist with development of physical, communication, self-help, cognitive, or social-emotional skills.

IHSS – In-Home Support Services - lets a person with a disability direct and manage the attendants who provide their personal care, homemaker and health maintenance services, with the added support of an agency. The person can select, train and manage attendants of their choice or a person may have an Authorized Representative to help with this.

IPE – Individualized Plan for Employment – a plan to help a person with a disability, who qualifies for services, find, get, and keep a job. It describes what the person wants to do, how they will get there (step by step) and the services needed to reach the goal chosen to work on.

IRS – Internal Revenue Service – the United States federal tax collection agency.

IRSS – Individual Residential Services and Supports – a variety of living arrangements (24 hour services and support) that meet unique needs of an individual.

JBC –Joint Budget Committee – studies the management and operations of state government programs, agencies, and institutions, and then makes budget recommendations.

LD - Learning Disability –difficulty in gaining knowledge and skills, compared to those of the same age.

LOC – Level of Care – Used to identify and verify that a person is receiving care at the appropriate level.

LRE - Least Restrictive Environment – LRE in special education supports the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and begins with the idea that students with disabilities should attend the school in their neighborhood and be integrated, to the maximum extent possible, with students without disabilities.

LTC – Long-Term Care – medical and non-medical care provided to individuals who cannot perform basic activities of daily living (ADL) such as bathing, dressing, getting in and out of bed or a chair, walking, using the toilet, and eating.

LTSS – Long-Term Services and Supports – encompasses Home and Community Based Services, as well as institutional care, that helps with activities of daily living (ADL) such as bathing, dressing, getting in and out of bed or a chair, walking, using the toilet, and eating.

MANE — Mistreatment, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation

MFP – Money Follows the Person – a Medicaid initiative to enhance services in the community and fewer services in institutional settings.

MH – Mental Health – emotional, psychological, and social well-being.

MHC – Mental Health Center – a group facility that provides prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of emotional, psychological, and social health.

MHI – Mental Health Institute – a medical facility that provides treatment and rehabilitation of emotional, psychological, and social health.

MI – Mental Illness- also referred to as mental health disorders, affect mood, thinking, behavior, and feeling and have a negative impact of daily living.

MS – Multiple Sclerosis – a disease of the brain and central nervous system that can cause a variety of symptoms including but not limited to pain, fatigue, numbness/tingling, mood changes, memory problems, blindness, and paralysis.

NF – Nursing Facility – a setting that provides 24-hour support and rehabilitation from skilled medical staff.

NH – Nursing Home – a residential facility that provides 24-hour care from nursing staff.

NOFAS - National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome – a nonprofit organization that educates the public, professionals, and policymakers about alcohol use during pregnancy. *NOTE: NOFAS recently changed its name to FASD United.

OCL – Office of Community Living – within the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) that manages long-term services and supports (LTSS) and their delivery, such as the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers.

OCR – Office of Civil Rights – the federal government division that investigates violations of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, or sex).

ODEP – Office of Disability Employment Policy – the federal agency that promotes policies with employers to increase workplace success for people with disabilities.

OLTC - Options for Long Term Care – provides access to publicly funded programs that provide support to people with disabilities and other conditions.

OT - Occupational Therapy – health care that helps people perform activities most important to their daily lives through therapy that treats physical, psychosocial, behavioral, cognitive, or sensory skills.

OTC – Over the Counter Drugs – retail medication that can be purchased without a prescription.

PACE – Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly – a Colorado program to provide health care services to help older adults live in the community as long as is medically and socially feasible.

PAD-CO – Parents of Adults with Disabilities in Colorado – an organization of parents of adults who advocate for system changes for people with disabilities on federal, state, and local levels.

PAR – Prior Authorization Request – authorization of services from Medicaid before providing the services.

PAS – Personal Assistance Services – non-medical services that help with activities of daily living (ADL) at home and in the workplace.

PASA – Program Approved Service Agency – an agency approved by the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) to provide direct community-based services on a Home and Community Based Service (HCBS) Medicaid waiver to individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

PASCO – Personal Assistance Services of Colorado – a service agency in Colorado that offer services and resources for family care takers, children, adults and seniors.

PASRR – Preadmission Screening and Resident Review – a federal requirement to ensure that individuals are not inappropriately placed in nursing homes for long term care.

PAT – Personal Adjustment Training – specialized employment training to assist people who are blind or visually impaired in becoming independent in the home, community, and in employment.

PC – Personal Care – non-medical care such as bathing, grooming, dressing, eating, getting in and out of bed, and other similar activities.

PCA - Personal Care Alternative – an option to live independently with personal care support.

PCP – Person Centered Planning – a process-oriented approach to empowering people to plan their life and work toward their goals.

PD - Physical Disability – a condition affecting a part of the body that limits basic daily functions and activity.

PEAK - Colorado Program Eligibility and Application Kit– the website where Colorado state benefits and assistance can be applied for and managed.

PERS – Personal Emergency Response System – a device and system that calls for help in an emergency by pushing a button.

PMIP – Professional Medical Information Page – medical information signed by a licensed medical professional to verify the individual's needs for an institutional level of care.

POC – Plan of Care – a written document by a service provider to map out the services and supports a person needs.

POMS – Program Operations Manual System – the reference system for the Social Security Administration used to regulate Social Security's programs (ie. Supplemental Security Income, Disability Benefits, etc.)

PRS – Person Receiving Services – the term for an individual receiving services from a provider.

PT - Physical Therapy – health care that helps people manage pain, increase range of motion, improve endurance, and develop basic motor skills.

PWD – Person with a Disability – an individual affected by one or more physical or mental conditions that limit movement, senses, or activity.

RC – Regional Center – state institutional settings for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities that have intensive needs, run directly by the Colorado Department of Human Services.

RCCO – Regional Care Collaborative Organizations – a network of Primary Care Medical Provider (PCMP) in Colorado for Health First Colorado (Medicaid) members committed to improving access and quality of care including Rocky Mountain Health Plans, Colorado Access, Integrated Community Health Partners, Colorado Community Health Alliance, and Community Care of Central Colorado.

RFI – Request for Information – a document, often from a business or government agency, to gather information.

RFP – Request for Proposal – a document that announces and describes a project and solicits bids from qualified contractors and providers to complete it.

RN – Registered Nurse – a nurse who has graduated from a nursing program and has passed a national licensing exam.

SC - Service Coordinator – someone who manages supports and services for an individual with a disability. This may also be called a case manager (CM).

SCC – Supported Community Connections – utilization of the community as a learning environment and opportunity to facilitate relationships for individuals to participate in structured activities like volunteer work, community classes, and more.

SE – Supported Employment – programs designed to assist people with disabilities in integration into competitive employment.

SEP – Single Entry Point – agencies that provide case management, care planning, and referrals for resources in Health First Colorado (Medicaid) members with qualifying needs such as the elderly and persons with disabilities, injuries, mental illness, and more.

SGD – Speech-Generating Device – a computer, tablet or laptop, which helps someone with speech production who has a speech or language impairment.

SIED - Significant Identifiable Emotional Disability – an individual with challenges to learn that cannot be explained by intellectual, sensory, or health factors.

SIS – Supports Intensity Scale – a standardized assessment to measure the support needs of a person with an intellectual and developmental disability.

SL – Support Level – the results from the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) assessment in which the intensity of support needed for an individual is determined.

SLD - Speech Language Disorder – a condition in which an individual has problems creating or forming speech sounds needed to communicate with others.

SLP – Speech-Language Pathology – health care field to evaluate and treat individuals with speech, language, social and cognitive communication impairments.

SLP – Supported Living Program – a specialized assisted living service for individuals.

SLS – Supportive Living Services (waiver) – a Home and Community Based Service waiver that provides persons with developmental disabilities (ages 18+) services and supports (less than 24 hours a day).

SMI – Serious Mental Illness –an individual who has been diagnosed with a mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder that causes serious impairment or limitation of life activities.

SNAP – Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program – formally called Food Stamps, is the government nutrition benefits program that provides assistance to buy food.

SNF – Skilled Nursing Facility – a care facility provided by trained registered nurses in a medical setting under a doctor's supervision.

SNT – Supplemental Needs Trust – an irrevocable trust that takes effect during a parent's lifetime, generally used to supplement the government benefits.

SPAL – Service Plan Authorization Limit – an annual limit to funds available for the SLS Home and Community Based Services waiver.

SSDI – Social Security Disability Insurance – government assistance for people with disabilities.

SSI – Supplemental Security Income – government assistance for people who have low income and resources.

ST - Speech Therapy – the assessment and treatment of communication problems and speech disorders.

TANF – Temporary Assistance to Needy Families – a government program that provides time-limited cash assistance to families with dependents.

TBI - Traumatic Brain Injury – damage to the brain acquired by sudden trauma.

The Arc – an organization that advocates for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In Colorado, there is the Arc of Colorado at the state level and several local Arc's that all serve specific geographic areas. Additionally, The Arc of the United States is the largest national community-based organization with nearly 700 state and local federated chapters advocating for and serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families.

TRS – Telecommunications Relay Service – a telephone service that allows individuals with hearing or speech impairments to place and receive phone calls.

ULTC-100.2 – Uniform Long Term Care Assessment Form – a functional assessment tool used in Colorado Medicaid to determine an individual's need for long term supports and services (LTSS).

WISC-V - Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children – a standardized IQ assessment for children (ages 6-16) used by schools and psychologists to determine cognitive strengths and weaknesses.



THINK+change is The Arc of Aurora's training and education program that strives to change knowledge, attitude, and behavior to ultimately improve the quality of life for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), their families, and the professionals in their lives.

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