



Policy/Procedure:	Substance Abuse Policy for Colorado Works
Reference:	C.R.S. 26-2-706.6(7), 9 CCR 2503-6
Rule/Statute:	3.600.2
Effective Date:	3/1/2022

BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

The Colorado Works (CW) Workforce Development (WD) program is designed to engage clients with services, opportunities, resources and tools needed to successfully obtain employment. For clients who are not able to work, the Colorado Works program offers support and services to increase employability and promote family safety and stability.

Routt County values the importance of educating program workers about substance abuse, controlled substance abuse, and other disorders to support family safety and stability.

- Substance abuse may include alcohol, recreational substances, prescription medicine, and other legal and illegal substances when consumed too much or in methods that are harmful to themselves and others, may impact the client's ability to obtain and maintain a job.
- Controlled substance abuse is the use of an illegal drug that can have a detrimental effect on a person's health and welfare, and cause physical and mental dependence.

Routt County is electing to implement a CW controlled substance program. This policy outlines the requirements for Routt County worker and clients related to participation in a controlled substance abuse program when the use of a controlled substance prevents the client from successfully participating in a WD work activity.

DEFINITIONS

Client - A current or past applicant or a current or past recipient of a CW grant payment.

Colorado Works - The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program in Colorado.

County worker - An employee or designated representative of the county department.

Basic cash assistance - means a recurrent cash payment intending to meet ongoing needs.

POLICY

Any CW client who indicates using controlled substances, must have a referral to a Certified Addictions Counselor (CAC) for a substance abuse assessment and the referral must be documented on the Individualized Plan (IP).

Routt County requires WD clients to participate in a controlled substance abuse program if:

- The client discloses the use of controlled substances and is unable to successfully participate in a WD work activity.
- An assessment by a CAC demonstrates that the client is likely using controlled substances and the client is unable to successfully participate in a WD work activity.



Referral

Routt County worker must refer WD clients who are required to participate in a controlled substance abuse program to a certified drug treatment provider for an assessment and the development of a rehabilitation plan. The Routt County worker and WD client will develop an IP with the referral to the certified drug treatment provider. The IP must also include the date the client will report their rehabilitation plan requirements to the Routt County worker. The referral date must be documented in case comments in the statewide automated system within five business days.

Monitoring

The WD client shall inform the Routt County worker of their rehabilitation plan requirements to modify the IP with the client's rehabilitation plan requirements. Rehabilitation plans may include:

- Attending rehabilitation classes
- Conducting random testing
- Other activities based upon the assessment of and developed by the certified drug treatment provider

The Routt County worker will document the modification of the IP in the client's case comments in the statewide automated system within five business days. General case comments summarizing the rehabilitation plan suffice. Detailed plan descriptions are not required in case comments.

A sanction will not be imposed if the client cannot participate in the rehabilitation plan for one of the below good cause reasons:

- Lack of transportation
- Lack of childcare
- The cost of the rehabilitation service is prohibited

In addition, WD clients will not be sanctioned for not participating in a rehabilitation plan if rehabilitation services are not available. This policy does not create an entitlement to rehabilitation services or to payment for rehabilitation services. However, Routt County workers shall assess a client's needs and provide supportive payments to assist clients with following through with rehabilitation plan requirements.

Signed by:

CHAIR, ROUTT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DATE