



Contact: Eliza Schultz, LeadingAge Colorado lobbyist  
[eliza@schultzpa.com](mailto:eliza@schultzpa.com)

## **Early Advantage Program – Life Care Institutions**

LeadingAge Colorado is a statewide trade association representing senior living and aging services providers. This includes nursing facilities, assisted living residences, affordable senior housing, adult day centers, PACE (Programs of all-inclusive Care for the Elderly) organizations and life care institutions. Many of our members are not-for-profit, faith-based organizations.

**Issue:** Statutory changes are needed to allow life care institutions to provide at-home and other services and benefits to individuals on their waiting lists, known as “Early Advantage Programs.”

### **Background**

#### **What is a life care institution?**

- Life care institutions are also known as continuing care retirement communities or life plan communities.
- A life care institution is a senior living community that offers lifestyle and healthcare options all on one campus, including independent living, assisted living and skilled nursing.
- Life care institutions charge residents an upfront, one-time entrance fee and monthly charges as appropriate. By paying an entrance fee, seniors living in life care institutions receive the assurance of continued residency and access to health care and other needed services as they age.
- In Colorado, there are seven operating life care institutions that are regulated by the Division of Financial Services within the Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA).
- Popular life care institutions maintain extensive waiting lists of seniors wanting to move onto the campuses.

#### **What is an Early Advantage Program?**

- An Early Advantage Program is designed to engage waiting list members with support while they wait for an apartment in the community.
- Participants in the program would pay a one-time entrance fee and a monthly charge to access and receive needed services and benefits provided by the life care institution while living in their own home until they can move onto the campus.

#### **Why are statutory changes needed?**

- The current law (CRS 11-49-101) focuses on services provided to seniors living on the life care institution’s campus.
- **HB25-1184: Community-Based Continuing Care for Seniors** establishes the requirements for an early advantage program if a life care institution chooses to offer these services.