

Colorado's Health Insurance Option



Healthcare That People Can Afford and Use

The Colorado Health Insurance Option is a two-phased approach to bring more affordable health insurance options to Coloradans in the individual and small employer markets.

PHASE 1

Provides an opportunity for the healthcare industry to work together to reduce the cost of care over two years, and allows them to take steps to do that with minimal government intervention. The industry has advocated for this approach.



PHASE 2

If the healthcare industry is not able to find a way to bring costs down, the State of Colorado will offer the Colorado Health Insurance Option that is more affordable and accessible - adding competition to the market.



Why the Two Phased Approach?

Sponsors and proponents heard from the industry last year that they wanted a chance to control costs and bring down premiums on their own. This two-phased approach gives the industry - including hospitals, insurance carriers, and drug manufacturers - the chance to work together to lower the driving costs of healthcare first. If the industry is not able to realize lower healthcare costs while maintaining quality and access, the state will move forward with the Colorado Health Insurance Option.

What Will Colorado's Health Insurance Option Accomplish?

This is a long-term solution to create affordable insurance options and hold the entire healthcare industry accountable to make it easier for Coloradans, including people of all races and incomes, to afford and access health insurance so we can all stay healthy. A standardized plan will ensure out-of-pocket costs are low and make it easier to shop for plans.

The Problem: Inequities In Healthcare Costs & Access



Even before the pandemic, 1 in 5 Coloradans struggled to afford their health care costs or went without care altogether. Many small businesses can no longer afford to provide their employees insurance.



With many more Coloradans unemployed, taking pay cuts, losing health coverage, and struggling for just the basic necessities, COVID-19 has shown the cracks in our healthcare system.



1 in 6 Colorado counties still have only one health insurance carrier offering individual insurance plans.



We need more affordable health insurance options to improve health equity and ensure Black/African American, Native American, and Latinx Coloradans have access to the health insurance and health care they need when they need it.



There are too many families who cannot access care because the underlying cost drivers controlled by the healthcare industry have not been addressed.



Addressing the root cause of rising health care costs is the best way to provide long-term affordable, quality health care for all Coloradans.

Colorado Cannot Wait To Lower Health Care Costs.

Now is the time to act. This pandemic has showcased the failures of our health care system in Colorado. Working Coloradans and small businesses invested in their communities do not have time to wait.