

## Coloradans Need the Extension of ARPA Health Insurance Subsidies

Colorado's official health insurance marketplace, Connect for Health Colorado®, offered thousands of new and existing customers increased access to savings thanks to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). The federal law expanded the amount of assistance people can receive to cover some or all the cost of their health insurance premium when shopping through an Affordable Care Act health insurance marketplace through 2022. **If these enhanced ARPA subsidies end, people who rely on marketplaces like Connect for Health Colorado to obtain affordable health insurance will be at risk of losing financial help or no longer being able to afford their coverage.**

### Impacts of Ending ARPA Subsidies in Colorado

Without Congressional action...

- An estimated **76%** of Colorado marketplace enrollees will see reduced or eliminated financial help
- Average premium spending by household is estimated to increase by **~39%** annually
- An estimated **26,000** middle-income Coloradans may no longer qualify for financial support
- An estimated **25,500** Coloradans will lose their health coverage

### Time is of the Essence

- The process to notify current customers about enrollment in health insurance for 2023, including premium increases if enhanced subsidies are not extended, begins **July 1<sup>st</sup>**. Open Enrollment begins **November 1<sup>st</sup>**
- The end of the Public Health Emergency will require Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid program) and Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) redeterminations for more than 550,000 Coloradans. Affordable marketplace coverage options for individuals and families losing Medicaid and CHP+ coverage will be crucial for their **continuity of care**

### Coloradans 55+ Are Disproportionately Impacted

- **Health insurance rates go up as a policyholder gets older;** the largest increases typically occur after age 55, making financial assistance crucial at higher income levels for people who are 55-64 years old
- Annual premium spending is estimated to increase for Coloradans ages 55+ by **47%** without Congressional action
- Over **7,000** Coloradans age 55+ would no longer qualify for premium assistance, potentially costing enrollees more than **\$1,000** per month in lost premium assistance

### Enhanced Subsidies Deliver Results for Rural Colorado

- Expanded financial assistance led to a **19%** enrollment increase between 2021 and 2022 across all rural counties, and a **16%** decrease in their net premiums
- In Mesa County, expanded financial assistance led to a **23%** enrollment increase between 2021 and 2022, and enrollees saw an average decrease of **28%** in their net premiums

### Savings from ARPA Subsidies Are Meaningful for Families and Local Economies

- A customer in El Paso County shared with us that they had avoided buying health insurance for their family due to cost. Thanks to the ARPA subsidies, they were able to work with their local Broker to enroll in a Silver plan. **Without the worry of medical debt**, the customer was able to replace their broken phones and afford their first family vacation in over 10 years
- Expanded financial assistance led to a **60%** enrollment increase and **47%** average decrease in net premiums for Coloradans with incomes under **150% FPL** (\$19,320 annually for an individual, \$39,750 annually for a family of four)
- Without an extension of ARPA subsidies, Colorado will lose more than **\$150 million federal tax credit dollars** that flow into local economies

For questions or more information about the data and findings presented above, contact Jessalyn Hampton, Public Affairs Manager at [jhampton@c4hco.com](mailto:jhampton@c4hco.com), 720-765-9722