



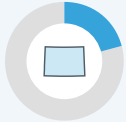
Medicaid Matters to Colorado's 8th Congressional District (CO-08)

Colorado's Medicaid program (Health First Colorado) is a lifeline across the Front Range

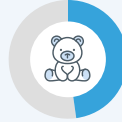
Health First Colorado provides health coverage for children, working families, veterans, vulnerable seniors, people with disabilities and many more people in Colorado's Front Range.¹

Health First Colorado serves as the core financial backbone of the Front Range's health care system, paying for care and services at local clinics and hospitals and serving as a critical engine for the local economy.

In CO-08, Health First Colorado Serves:



A total of 176,000 people — **24% of all residents** in the district; CO-08 has the second-highest Medicaid enrollment in the state.²

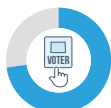


A total of 86,400 children — **48% of all children** in the district.³



A total of **22,900 seniors** and **people with disabilities**.⁴

Over 1 million Coloradans will lose health coverage and care if Congress cuts or caps Medicaid funding, forcing the state to offset budget holes by throwing people off coverage, cutting provider reimbursement, and/or eliminating essential health services. Any cut to Medicaid is a direct attack on the health and financial security of people living in Colorado's Front Range and runs counter to the will of the vast majority of voters from across political parties who want Congress to continue to guarantee coverage for low-income people through Medicaid.⁵



A total of **71% of voters** want Congress to continue to guarantee coverage for low-income people through Medicaid.⁶

Protecting Medicaid Means:

CHILDREN IN CO-08

Have access to newborn care, checkups, care for diabetes and asthma, and more.

Stay healthy and ready to learn, miss fewer school days, are more likely to graduate, and earn more as adults.⁷



FAMILIES IN CO-08

Have access to cancer screenings, mental health and substance use disorder treatment, and diabetes and blood pressure medications.

Have less risk of medical debt and eviction and can better afford to buy groceries or pay rent.⁸



SENIORS IN CO-08

Have access to nursing home care, transportation to medical appointments, and home health services.

Stay healthy and receive needed care in their homes and communities.



Medicaid keeps families and veterans in CO-08 healthy and working

Many low-wage jobs either do not offer health coverage or offer coverage that is unaffordable. Medicaid provides health coverage for workers at these jobs so they can remain healthy and earn income for their families.

- **At least 46,085 low-wage workers** in CO-08 are covered by Health First Colorado.⁹
- Nationwide, **92% of adults** covered by Medicaid either work, care for a family member, have an illness or disability, or attend school.¹⁰

Medicaid also provides affordable care for veterans with complex health needs, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injuries and chronic pain. While veterans can go to Veterans Health Administration facilities, they need health coverage to help pay for their care. For many veterans, Medicaid provides this coverage.

Cutting Medicaid would make our country's affordability crisis much worse for families in Colorado who already face significant health care costs.

Medicaid is the bedrock of the health system across the Front Range

Health First Colorado keeps hospitals in the district open. It pays for 39% of all hospital services provided at North Suburban Medical Center.¹¹ If Medicaid is cut, hospitals will treat more uninsured people and the amount of uncompensated care will increase. A total of 7.7% of the district's residents are already uninsured — increased losses in patient revenue would put all Front Range hospitals at risk.¹²

Health First Colorado also plays important roles in accessing behavioral health care and nursing home care. **Colorado has the second-highest prevalence of mental health and substance use issues of any state,**¹³ and opioid-related deaths cost the state an estimated \$16 billion in health care costs and lost productivity.¹⁴ **Medicaid is the largest payer for mental health care, substance use disorder treatment,** and other community services to curb the opioid epidemic and care for people with mental illness.¹⁵ Health First Colorado also covers 3 in 5 nursing home residents in Colorado.¹⁶

Medicaid stabilizes Colorado's state and local economies.

Medicaid is the largest source of federal funding for Colorado, accounting for 66% of the federal funds received by the state.¹⁷ Medicaid dollars ensure Colorado can deliver essential health care without depleting resources reserved for other essential services, including public safety, transportation, housing and education.

Cutting Medicaid would make our country's affordability crisis much worse. Americans from all backgrounds just voted for economic security, imploring their representatives to lower costs on everyday needs, including health care. Cutting Medicaid would be a direct betrayal of constituents by making health care more unaffordable. **Families across the Front Range already face significant health care costs:**

- **84% of people living in the Front Range** are worried about affording health care.
- **40% of people living in the Front Range** had to deplete savings, take on debt, or sacrifice basic necessities to obtain medical care.
- **72% of people living in the Front Range** skipped needed care due to cost.¹⁸

Congress has the responsibility to stand with families in Colorado and across the country by protecting Medicaid and opposing any attempts to weaken this essential program.

Endnotes

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- ² Euhus, Burns, and Rudowitz, “Congressional District Interactive Map.”
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- ⁵ Grace Sparks, Robin Rudowitz, and Ashley Kirzinger, “Public Opinion on the Future of Medicaid: Results From the KFF Medicaid Unwinding Survey and KFF Health Tracking Poll,” KFF, June 4, 2024, <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/poll-finding/public-opinion-on-the-future-of-medicaid-kff-medicaid-unwinding-kff-health-tracking-poll/>.
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- ⁹ U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, “Health Insurance Coverage Status and Type by Work Experience by Sex,” American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B27012, 2023, accessed February 10, 2025, <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT1Y2023.B27012?q=b27012&g=500XX00US0803,0808,3914,5304>.
- ¹⁰ Jennifer Tolbert et al., “Understanding the Intersection of Medicaid and Work: An Update,” KFF, February 4, 2025, <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/understanding-the-intersection-of-medicaid-and-work-an-update/>.
- ¹¹ Hospital Financial Transparency Report: Annual Report (Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing, February 5, 2024), <https://hcpf.colorado.gov/sites/hcpf/files/2024%20Hospital%20Financial%20Transparency%20Report%20Appendix%20C%20V2.pdf>.
- ¹² U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, “Selected Characteristics of Health Insurance Coverage in the United States,” American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S2701, 2023, accessed February 10, 2025, <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2023.S2701?q=s2701&g=500XX00US0803,0808,3914,5304>.
- ¹³ “The State of Mental Health in America: Data & Rankings: Prevalence Data,” Mental Health America, 2024, <https://mhanational.org/the-state-of-mental-health-in-america/data-rankings/prevalence-data/>.
- ¹⁴ Steven L. Byers, “Colorado’s Fentanyl Problem and the Economic Costs,” Common Sense Institute, June 18, 2024, <https://www.commonsenseinstituteus.org/colorado/research/housing-and-our-community/colorados-fentanyl-problem-and-the-economic-costs>.
- ¹⁵ “Behavioral Health Services,” Medicaid.gov, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, n.d., <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/benefits/behavioral-health-services/index.html>; “How Medicaid Helps People With Substance Use Disorders,” Georgetown University Center for Children and Families, accessed on February, 29, 2025, <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2025/02/19/how-medicaid-helps-people-with-substance-use-disorders>; “Medicaid Is Vital to Colorado’s Children,” Georgetown University Center for Children and Families, February 2025, <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Medicaid-is-Vital-to-Colorado-s-Children.pdf>.
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- ¹⁸ “Colorado Survey Respondents Struggle to Afford High Health Care Costs; Worry About Affording Health Care in the Future; Support Government Action Across Party Lines,” Healthcare Value Hub, August 2024, https://www.healthcarevaluehub.org/application/files/7717/2202/1978/Final_CO_Affordability_Brief.pdf.

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