



URGENT NEED: Protect Infrastructure and Access to Health Care

In 2023 and 2024 about **575,000 Coloradans lost access to health care** through Medicaid. This is having a significant impact on both individuals who need health care as well as the providers who serve them, **right now** - **before any federal proposals hit.**

RIISING NUMBERS OF UNINSURED

Safety net providers are, by mission and often by law, required to provide care regardless of an individual's ability to pay.



25% to 50% increase
in uninsured for safety
net clinics



140% increase
in hospital charity care
since pre-pandemic 2019



39,000 patients
at Community Health
Centers lost coverage
between 2022 and 2024



\$97 million needed
to cover the cost of
uncompensated care
provided by community
mental health centers

Current Loss of Staffing and Infrastructure Means Reduced Access to Care for Everyone



Federally qualified health centers

65% of FQHCs have reported negative operating margins in the past year. **81% have already reduced their workforce or instituted hiring freezes.** Three have closed school-based sites and eight are considering doing so.



Community mental health centers

In the wake of multimillion dollar budget deficits, community mental health centers have scraped reserves, consolidated programs, left dozens of open positions vacant and laid off staff. **The only psychiatric hospital on the Western Slope was forced to close.**



Hospitals

70% of Colorado hospitals are operating on thin or negative margins. **For the first time since the 1980s Colorado has seen two hospital closures in the first quarter of 2024.** Obstetrics services have been eliminated in two rural hospitals, even as 51% percent of rural and frontier areas are considered maternal care deserts.



Other primary care safety net providers

As thousands lost access to Medicaid and became uninsured, primary care safety net providers continued to care for these individuals regardless of their ability to pay, creating **downsizing and layoffs** in clinics across the state.



Vote YES on SB25-290, Senators Mullica and Kirkmeyer

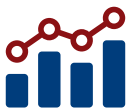
A consensus proposal to stabilize the safety net in the short term

WHAT THE PROPOSAL DOES

Preserves access to essential safety net health care for thousands of Coloradans. Provides **immediate support** to a broad cross-section of safety net health care providers, including Community Health Centers (FQHCs), rural clinics, comprehensive community behavioral health providers and other primary care clinics, which have been financially struggling in the wake of 575,000 Coloradans losing Medicaid health insurance. Creates short term mitigation for infrastructure losses while long term, comprehensive solutions can be developed.

HOW THIS PROPOSAL WORKS

Establishes a new Provider Stabilization Fund that will consist of a minimum of \$100M from:



Available state revenue



Private contributions



**Federal matching funds
available through Medicaid**

- Payments will be made to qualifying safety net providers beginning in the 2025-26 fiscal year and are anticipated to continue through at least 2027-28 fiscal year. Payments will be based on volume of care provided to low income uninsured Coloradans.
- The new fund would be established within the existing CHASE Enterprise, meaning it will not impact the TABOR limit, and will be overseen by a new Provider Stabilization Fund Support Board established to advise the CHASE Board on implementation of this fund.

HOW THIS PROPOSAL IS DIFFERENT



Consensus

This is the best thinking of consumer advocates and safety net providers on how we can act immediately to stabilize existing infrastructure in the short term



Beneficiaries

A broad group of impacted safety net providers are eligible



Timing

Funding from this plan would begin flowing immediately in 2025



Funding source

Funding from state, private and federal funds ensure no group of health care providers experiences negative impacts to revenue

ACT NOW to stabilize the health care safety net before more jobs and infrastructure are lost. **Vote YES on SB25-290.**