

Paula Linhares, Constituent Services Specialist

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Centennial Hall, 200 S. Cascade

Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Board of County Commissioners

Holly Williams, District 1

Carrie Geitner, District 2

Bill Wysong, District 3

Cory Applegate, District 4

Lauren Nelson, District 5

**CITIZEN OUTREACH GROUP (COG)
MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Date: **August 18, 2025**

Members Present

In Person and Via

Virtual/Teleconference

Meeting:

Ruble Henderson (Chair), Candi Boyer, Sarah Brittain Jack, Amber Campbell, Lanz Cook, Ed Dills, Jim Godfrey, Brenda Miller, Dale Warner

Members Absent:

Angie Greene (excused)

Commissioners Present:

None

County Staff Present:

Ryan Parsell, Natalie Sosa, AmyJo Fields, Paula Linhares

Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 9:30am by COG Chair Ruble Henderson.

I. Administrative Items - Ruble Henderson

- a. Motion was made by Jim Godfrey to accept the July 21 minutes. Lanz Cook seconded. Motion passed.

II. County Communications and PIO Update – Natalie Sosa and AmyJo Fields

- a. Café Conversation with Cory Applegate – August 29, 9:30am in Fountain.
- b. Lanz Cook is scheduled to do interview with KRDO Radio on August 21 to promote Citizen College 2025.
- c. Additional COG Board members will be scheduled for social media promotional videos in the coming weeks.
- d. Idea was discussed to create a montage of Citizen College sessions. Amber Campbell has clips of different sessions from Citizen College 2024 that could be used for social media promotions and will send the clips to AmyJo.

III. Legislative Update – Budget Implications of Federal Reconciliation Bill – Ryan Parsell

- a. A copy of the presentation slide deck is attached to these minutes.
- b. Key points:
 - Colorado's structural deficit existed long before the federal government's 'One Big Beautiful Bill' was passed.
 - The state closed a \$1.2 billion deficit early this year through one-time fixes but did not address the structural deficit.
 - Potential County Impacts:
 - Local Medicaid Administration – changes in certification period, community engagement requirements, retro coverage.
 - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – potential changes in County cost-share to administer the program.

IV. Citizen College 2025 Updates – Issues, Risks and Significant Events

- a. 32 registrations received to date toward goal of 75 registrations.
- b. Amber Campbell cited issues with her emails being blocked by the County server, which are delaying her communications to Citizen Service Center (CSC) presenters and staff re: College presentations and logistics. Paula has reported the issue to County IT.
- c. Sarah Brittain Jack is waiting to hear if Sheriff Roybal will be able to attend the session at the jail on October 18. She also will confirm if the Sheriff's Office will provide lunch at the Jail prior to the group's transition to the College closing session at Fountain Nature Center on the afternoon of October 18.
- d. Board discussed the idea of hosting a ceremony on the last day of the College to thank participants and recognize their efforts to learn more about the County. The ceremony might include issuance of certificates of completion during the ceremony, perhaps indicating the sessions that each participant attended. Paula will provide draft certificate template at the next Citizen College Subcommittee meeting.
- e. Idea was discussed to ask local restaurants to provide gift certificates as a reward for program completion and as a promotional opportunity for local restaurants. It might be too late to do this for this year's College. Brenda Miller offered to reach out to a couple of local establishments to see what is possible. Suggestion was made to approach only restaurants that are in good standing with the County (i.e., no inspection violations, etc.).

Meeting adjourned at 11:15am



Budget Implications of **Federal Reconciliation Bill**

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Impacted DHS Program - MA

Health First Colorado – Colorado’s Medicaid Program

- Health First Colorado (Colorado’s Medicaid program) provides medical benefits including inpatient and outpatient hospital, physician services, well child checks, immunizations, prescription drugs, dental benefits and mental health care. To qualify, applicants must meet citizenship, legal residence, and income requirements. Anyone who needs health coverage can apply at any time of the year.

	Total	Federal	State	County
FY 25/26 – HCPF Admin	\$14,450,355	\$7,225,178	\$4,335,107	\$2,890,071

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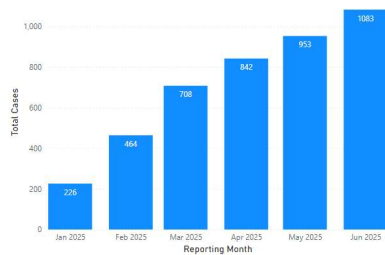


Medicaid Numbers

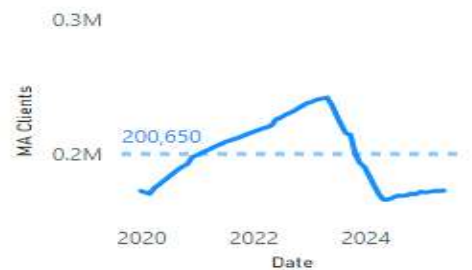
Health First Colorado – Colorado's Medicaid Program

- 1 in 4 EPC Residence Receiving Medicaid
- 172,866 Avg. Monthly Clients (2025)
- Cover All Coloradans - <1%

Total Cases
BY REPORTING MONTH



MA Clients



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Medicaid Admin Impacts

Current State	Future State	Effective Date	County Admin Impact
12-Month Certification Period	6-month Certification Period	December 31, 2026	Additional Processing
No Work Requirements	Community Engagement Requirements	December 31, 2026	Additional Verifications
90-Day Retro Coverage	30/60-Day Retro Coverage	January 1, 2027	Marginal

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Impacted DHS Program - SNAP

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) helps low-income households purchase food. Families and individuals can receive a monthly benefit to buy food. To qualify, applicants must meet citizenship, legal residence, income, and work requirements.

	Total	Federal	State	County
FY 25/26 – SNAP Admin	\$14,024,862	\$7,012,431	\$4,207,459	\$2,804,972

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SNAP Numbers

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- 1 in 10 EPC Residence Receiving SNAP
- 85,837 Avg. Monthly Clients (2025)
- 50% Children, 10% Elderly, 15% w/ Disabilities
- **\$17 Million** Federal Benefits Monthly to EPC



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Impacted DHS Program - SNAP

SNAP Admin Cost Share

SNAP Benefit Cost Share

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SNAP Admin Cost Share

	Total	Federal	State	County
FY 25/26 – SNAP Admin Current State	\$14,024,862	50% \$7,012,431	30% \$4,207,459	20% \$2,804,972
Scenario 1	\$14,024,862	25% \$3,506,216 \$3,506,216	55% \$7,713,675 (\$3,506,216)	20% \$2,804,972 \$0
Scenario 2	\$14,024,862	25% \$3,506,216 \$3,506,216	45% \$6,311,188 (\$2,103,730)	30% \$4,207,458 (\$1,402,486)
Scenario 3	\$14,024,862	25% \$3,506,216 \$3,506,216	30% \$4,207,459 \$0	45% \$6,311,188 (\$3,506,216)

October 2026

Red numbers indicate the potential difference between current state and future state scenarios.

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SNAP Benefit Cost Share

Annual Benefit Cost Share

\$120-140 Million Statewide

\$20 Million EPC

State Share Ranges

- PER below 6%: 0% state match
- PER 6-7.99%: 5% state match
- PER 8-9.99%: 10% state match
- PER 10-13.3%: 15% state match
- PER over 13.3%: 15% state match but delayed until FY 2030

October 2027

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SNAP Benefit Cost Share

	State	State- EPC	EPC
Error Rate	9.97%	7.50%	2.50%
Sample Size	~1,000 Annually	14 Monthly 168 Annually	260 Monthly 3,120 Annually
Representative Sample	1064	1043	1043

October 2027

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Other SNAP Changes

- Re-evaluation of the Thrifty Food Plan
- Modifications to SNAP Work Requirements for Able-Bodied Adults
- Availability of Standard Utility Allowances Based on Receipt of Energy Assistance
- Restrictions on Internet Expenses
- National Education and Obesity Prevention Grant Program Repealed
- Alien SNAP Eligibility

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SNAP Work Req. & Alien Eligibility

Current State	Future State	Effective Date	Impact
Work Requirements	Expansion of Work Requirements	October 2025	Doubling of Those Subject to Work Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABAWDs Age 18-54 • Exception - Children Under 18 • Exemption <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeless • Prior Foster Care • Veteran • No Indian Exemptions • ABAWD Waivers for Unemployment Rates • No Alaska & Hawai'i Specific Exemptions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABAWDs 18-64 • Exception - Children Under 14 • Exemptions No Longer Apply • New Exemptions for Indians • Unemployment Rate Must be above 10% for Exemption • Alaska & Hawai'i Specific Exemptions Related to Unemployment Rates 	<p>Expires by December 31, 2028</p> <p>October 2025</p>	<p>~3,950 People No Longer Eligible Statewide (<1%)</p>
Refugees & Asylees May be Eligible	Refugees & Asylees Not Eligible	October 2025	

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Lawful Presence for SNAP

- Verification of Identity
- Verification of SSN
- Verification of Residency
- Verification of Citizenship
- Verification of Non-Citizen Status
 - SAVE
- Verification of 40 Work Quarters
- Verification of Non-Citizen Sponsorship



The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS), Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlement (SAVE) system will verify the alien status of applicant non-citizens.

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Timeline

	2025			2026			2027			2028		
	Jan	Oct	Dec	Jan	Oct	Dec	Jan	Oct	Dec	Jan	Oct	Dec
<u>SNAP</u>												
Work Requirements Expansion		+										
Admin Cost Share					+							
Error Rate Cost Share								+				
<u>Medicaid</u>												
6 Month Certification								+				
Work Requirements								+				
Retro Coverage Changes								+				

Good Faith Effort Waivers Allowed to Dec 2028

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Questions

Questions?

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EL PASO COUNTY
COLORADO

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