



Health Plans' Role in Colorado's Medicaid Program

Health First Colorado, Colorado's Medicaid program, is a public health insurance program for Coloradans who qualify. More than 1.3 million Coloradans are covered by Health First Colorado which is funded jointly by a federal-state partnership and is administered by the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. Health insurance providers are committed to ensuring that Medicaid is effective, affordable, and accountable.

Health Insurance Providers' Role in Medicaid

Most states contract with private companies to manage their Medicaid programs. Medicaid health plans advocate for their members, working closely with local leaders and community organizations to improve health for their enrollees. Health plans provide many services for their Medicaid members including help finding long-term housing, transportation for medical appointments, access to nutritious foods, dental care, health education, and access to social services.

In Colorado, certain carriers have long standing Medicaid programs which assume financial risk and provide comprehensive care to Medicaid enrollees and Child Health Plan Plus enrollees. The enrollees receive high quality comprehensive care including chronic care and behavioral health care. Analysis demonstrates that these plans operate at net savings to the State compared to fee for service equivalent.

Regional Accountable Entities

On July 1, 2018, Health First Colorado launched the development of seven new organizations, called the Regional Accountable Entities (RAEs). Five private organizations were awarded contracts in a competitive bidding process to coordinate care in the state's seven RAE regions. RAEs replaced and consolidated the administrative functions of Regional Care Collaborative Organizations (RCCOs) and Behavioral Health Organizations (BHOs).

Responsibilities of RAEs

RAEs are responsible for building a network of providers, coordinating their members' physical and behavioral health care, and monitoring data. The RAEs build their networks by contracting directly with primary care providers and behavioral health providers. RAEs can use pay-for-performance programs or value-based payments to provide financial incentives to RAEs and providers as a way to improve outcomes and care and reduce unnecessary medical visits.

RAE Regions

Region 1

Rocky Mountain Health Plans

Region 2

Northeast Health Partners

Region 3 & 5

Colorado Access

Region 4

Health Colorado, Inc.

Region 6 & 7

Colorado Community Health Alliance