

How to Become a Three-Minute Expert on ColoradoCare

Amendment 69 on the November ballot would bring tremendous change to the state's health care system by creating ColoradoCare. Here's a three-minute guide to some of the most common questions.



What Is It?

ColoradoCare would be a taxpayer-financed system of universal health coverage for all Colorado residents. It would be created by the state constitution but largely beyond the control of the governor and legislature. It would replace Medicaid (but not Medicare) and private insurance. It would cover most major medical services after some copayments by patients, but there would be no deductible.



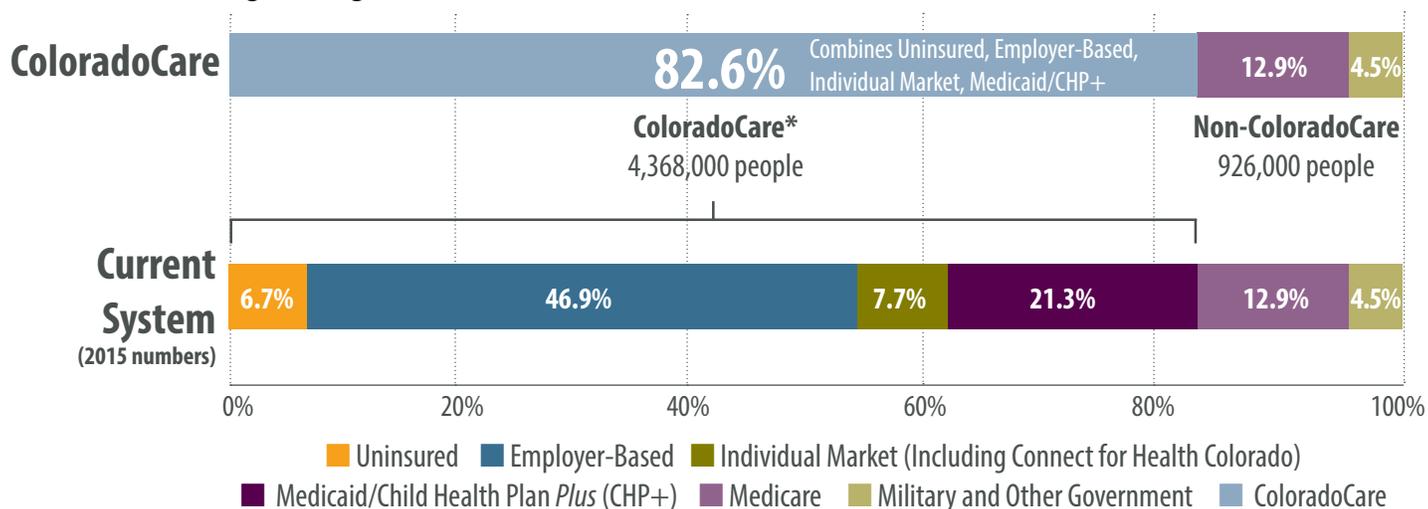
Who Would Pay For It?

The system would be financed by a new income tax as well as existing federal and state funding for health programs, mainly Medicaid. A 10 percent payroll tax would be levied on each employee, with the worker paying one third and the employer paying two thirds. The self-employed would pay the entire 10 percent. Other forms of income, such as investments, would be taxed at 10 percent. The new taxes would bring in a projected \$25 billion. (Federal and state funding could push annual revenues to an estimated \$38 billion.) Residents would no longer have to buy insurance, so some people and businesses could save money despite the new tax.



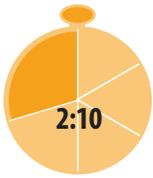
Who Would Be Covered?

The uninsured, Medicaid clients and most privately insured people would be in ColoradoCare. People in purely federal programs such as Medicare would not. The Colorado Health Institute estimates that more than four million Coloradans, nearly 83 percent of the population, would be eligible for primary coverage through ColoradoCare.



Sources: 2015 Colorado Health Access Survey, ColoradoCare proposed constitutional amendment

*** Ten-Second Timeout for Nuance:** ColoradoCare coverage might be lower than this graphic shows because some people and employers would still choose to buy private insurance.



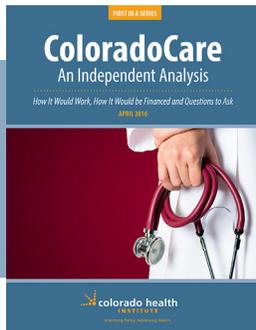
How Would ColoradoCare Be Run?

An interim board of 15 people would be appointed by the governor and legislative leaders. The board would set up an election system and parcel the state into seven districts. ColoradoCare members in each district would vote for three members to serve on the permanent 21-member board. (Qualified voters would be any beneficiary who is at least 18 and has lived in Colorado for a year or more. They wouldn't have to be registered Colorado voters or U.S. citizens.) The board would oversee most aspects of the system and hire a senior management team. The board would have the power to decide how much providers are paid, and it would negotiate for prices on drugs and medical equipment.



What Happens If Amendment 69 Passes?

Colorado voters will not have the last word on ColoradoCare. If the amendment passes, it would set in motion a series of decisions in Colorado and Washington. The governor and legislative leaders would appoint an interim board. The legislature would have to transfer Medicaid, roughly a third of the state budget, to ColoradoCare. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services would have to approve waivers to transfer Medicaid and Affordable Care Act money to ColoradoCare, and the department's decision could depend on who is elected president this November. In short, ColoradoCare faces numerous steps — and potential pitfalls — before it could be launched.



Congratulations! You're a three-minute expert. Want to graduate to the 30-minute expert level? Check out the Colorado Health Institute's report, **ColoradoCare: An Independent Analysis** (bit.ly/1SDhjPI). And watch CHI this summer for follow-up reports on the governance and finances of ColoradoCare.

About the Colorado Health Institute



The Colorado Health Institute — often referred to as CHI — is Colorado's leading independent non-profit health and health policy research institute. We provide evidence-based research and analysis that supports policy discussions and decisions throughout the state.

Because we are nonpartisan, our work helps to build bridges and reach solutions. We support a wide range of interests, from legislators and local policymakers to health care delivery systems and patient advocacy groups, from philanthropic foundations to state government.

Being nonpartisan, however, doesn't stop us from having a clear mission: We want Coloradans to be as healthy as possible and we want health care spending to be a good value.

We are funded, in part, by four of the state's leading health foundations: The Colorado Trust, the Colorado Health Foundation, the Caring for Colorado Foundation and Rose Community Foundation. We are also funded by revenues from consulting services. Call us at 303.831.4200 to learn how we may be of help to you or your organization.