



# Final Report to the General Assembly

*Health Insurance Exchange Oversight Committee*  
*December 2024 | Research Publication 827*





# Health Insurance Exchange Oversight Committee

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December | 2024





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**This report is also available online at:**

**<https://leg.colorado.gov/committees/colorado-health-insurance-exchange-oversight-committee/2024-regular-session>**



## Committee Charge

Section 10-22-107, C.R.S., establishes the Colorado Health Insurance Exchange Oversight Committee (oversight committee) for guiding the implementation of the Colorado Health Benefit Exchange, which currently does business under the name Connect for Health Colorado (exchange), and making recommendations to the General Assembly. The oversight committee:

- must meet at least one time a year; however, the oversight committee can meet an unlimited number of times during the legislative session and no more than seven times during the interim;
- must approve the appointment of the executive director of the exchange by the Colorado Health Benefit Exchange Board of Directors;<sup>1</sup>
- must review annual financial and operational plans of the exchange;
- must review and approve any implementation grants for which the board wishes to apply; and
- can recommend up to eight bills for consideration by the General Assembly each year.

## Committee Activities

The committee held one meeting during the 2024 interim. Briefings and presentations were made by Connect for Health Colorado and members of the public on a wide range of subjects, including:

- overview of Connect for Health Colorado;
- open enrollment highlights;
- the federal Inflation Reduction Act;
- Medicaid to Marketplace Bridge;
- state policy implementations; and
- Senate Bill 22-081 reporting.

The following section discusses the committee's activities during the 2024 interim.

### Connect for Health Colorado 2024 Update

The Connect for Health Colorado Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Kevin Patterson, provided an overview of the exchange's governance and mission, an overview of the exchange's finances, statistics about the Medicaid to Marketplace Bridge, a summary of recent state policy implementations, and reported on Senate Bill 22-081. The CEO spoke about the exchange's

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<sup>1</sup> Section 10-22-106 (1)(a), C.R.S.

work raising awareness, and improvements getting people enrolled, including goals for technology improvement to benefit both consumers and the exchange.

**Open Enrollment.** The CEO shared information on open enrollment, noting that 2024 was the largest open enrollment ever, with nearly 250,000 enrollees and an 18 percent increase compared to 2023. The largest increases came from rural counties, with 27 percent of enrollments being in rural Colorado, while 13 percent of the state’s population lives in rural areas. He spoke about factors that assisted open enrollment, including improvements in technology, changes to federal law, and state law updates.

**Impact of Inflation Reduction Act Subsidies.** The CEO spoke about the financial impact of ending enhanced premium subsidies. He shared that an estimated 77 percent of Colorado marketplace enrollees will see their financial help reduced or eliminated, and that average household premium spending is estimated to increase by approximately 50 percent annually. He also shared information on how these changes will affect enrollees with comparisons by age and by location in the state.

**House Bill 22-1289.** In January 2024, the state added pregnancy as a reason for a special enrollment period. In January 2025, children and pregnant people, regardless of immigration status, who meet Medicaid criteria can qualify and enroll in Medicaid. The exchange has worked to update their application logic and raise awareness about the new health coverage options as they conduct outreach in immigrant communities.



## Resource Materials

Meeting summaries are prepared for each meeting of the committee and contain all handouts provided to the committee. The summaries of meetings and attachments are available at the Division of Archives, 1313 Sherman Street, Denver (303-866-2055). The listing below contains the dates of committee meetings and the topics discussed at those meetings. Meeting summaries are also available on our website at:

<https://leg.colorado.gov/committees/colorado-health-insurance-exchange-oversight-committee/2024-regular-session>

## Meetings and Topics Discussed

August 1, 2024

- Connect for Health Colorado – 2024 update
- Bill draft discussion