

2023 Legislative Items of Interest

Colorado Community Health Centers



The Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN), on behalf of Colorado's 20 federally qualified Community Health Centers (CHCs), closely monitors state legislation and funding that impacts CHCs. CCHN's top policy priorities for 2023 include:

- Protect and grow programs that support CHCs in the state budget [Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program), Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+), the Colorado Indigent Care Program (CICP), the Primary Care Fund (PCF), School-Based Health Centers, and others].
- Protect and refine CHC cost-based reimbursement.
- Support recruitment, retention, and development of CHC workforce.
- Shape, monitor, and progress state payment reform programs.
- Influence state health system transformation to increase investment in primary care and the uninsured.

Below are CCHN's priority legislative items as of February 8, 2023.

ACTIVELY SUPPORT: SB23-083 Physician Assistant Collaboration Requirements

Sponsors: Senators Simpson and Winter

This bill would allow Physician Assistants (PAs) to enter into collaborative agreements with employers or physicians, rather than requiring supervision over the PA. The bill specifies what needs to be included in a collaborative agreement for both experienced and less experienced PAs.

- Potential CHC Impact: PAs are an integral part of CHC care teams and often lead care teams. This bill would allow PAs to practice more autonomously, which will create access to care and free up time for physicians to focus on patient care.
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SUPPORT: SB23-002 Medicaid Reimbursement for Community Health Services

Sponsors: Senators Mullica and Simpson, Representatives McCluskie and Bradfield

This bill would authorize the Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF) to seek federal authorization to allow Community Health Workers (CHWs) to be reimbursed for certain services under Medicaid. CHWs are a cost effective tool to caring for patients with multiple chronic conditions, keeping patients out of emergency departments, and meeting patients where they are to connect to the right care at the right time.

- Potential CHC Impact: Colorado CHCs employ CHWs and patient navigators. This bill would make these services an allowable cost at CHCs, creating a more sustainable funding stream for employing CHWs and increasing the impact these workers would have in their communities.