

Cost of Various Colorado Health Care Reform Proposals

In 2007, the Colorado Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform hired the Lewin Group, a national health economics analysis firm, to evaluate the costs and effectiveness of four proposals moving towards universal health careⁱ. The results were clear:

Proposal	# Remaining Uninsured ⁱⁱ	Increase in Total Health Care Spending ⁱⁱⁱ
Better Health Care for Colorado	467,000	\$595 million
Solutions for a Healthy Colorado	138,000	\$271 million
A Plan for Covering Coloradans	109,000	\$1.3 billion
The Colorado Health Services (Single Payer) Program	0	-\$1.4 billion

Better Health Care for Colorado - would increase access to public programs and to private insurance coverage with low-income subsidies.

Solutions for a Healthy Colorado - would provide a limited benefit set in the private sector with low-income subsidies, and expands coverage under Medicaid and Child Health Plus.

A Plan for Covering Coloradans - would require private pool participation with low-income subsidies and expanded public programs.

The Colorado Health Services (Single Payer) Program - would provide coverage with comprehensive benefits to all residents of the state. Consumers would have their choice of providers and hospitals within the state.

ⁱ Lewin's Technical Assessment of Health Care Reform Proposals (230 page report): <http://tinyurl.com/Colorado-2007Lewin>

ⁱⁱ At the time Colorado conducted this study, it had about 792,000 uninsured residents.

ⁱⁱⁱ On top of current public/private health spending.