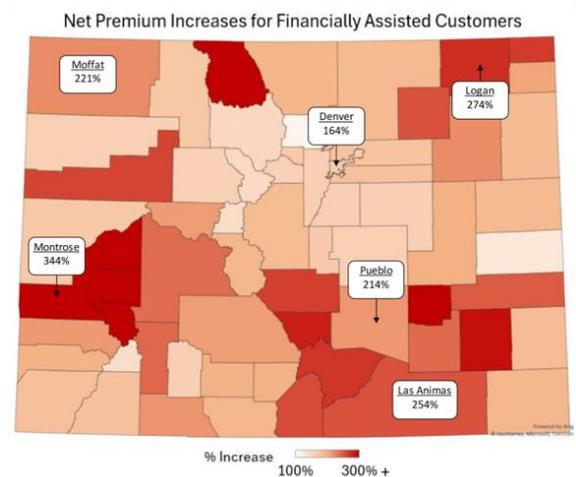


## Strengthening Colorado’s Commitment to Health Coverage Affordability Support HB 25B-1006 Representatives Brown & Gilchrist, Senators Jodeh & Mullica

### The Federal Challenge Ahead

Enhanced Premium Tax Credits (ePTC), first enacted under the American Rescue Plan and extended by the Inflation Reduction Act, are set to expire at the end of 2025. Without congressional action, tens of thousands of Coloradans—especially older adults, middle-income families, and rural Coloradans—will face substantial cost increases that threaten their access to coverage.

- The Colorado Division of Insurance has published a preliminary rate increase of **28% statewide**.
- But for Connect for Health Colorado customers, the impact is even more dramatic:
  - A projected **174% increase** in monthly premiums for financially assisted customers
  - A **104% increase** in monthly premiums for all marketplace customers
  - Rates are higher in rural counties
- In 2025, **more than 80% of customers received financial help**, thanks in large part to the ePTC.
- Federal subsidies saved the average Connect for Health Colorado customer **\$561 a month** and **\$5,590 a year**.
- Since 2021, over **200,000 Coloradans** have benefited from premium tax credits.
- An estimated **90,000 Coloradans are at risk of losing coverage** without additional affordability solutions.



### Middle-Income Impact

A couple in their early 60s from Larimer County, earning just over **\$81,700/year** (slightly above 400% FPL), currently pays **\$186/month** in premiums due to ePTC support. If these credits expire, their monthly cost could increase to **\$1,641**—an increase of more than **\$1,400/month**, or nearly **\$20,000 annually**, representing a substantial share of their income. This is a **780% premium increase** due to subsidy losses for those earning above 400% FPL.

## Colorado’s Existing Health Insurance Affordability Programs – HIAE Funding

Colorado has proactively implemented affordability programs to address gaps in the federal system, including:

- **Colorado Premium Assistance**, which will provide support to consumers up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), offering:
  - \$50/month for individuals
  - \$18/month per additional family member
- **OmniSalud**, which offers comprehensive coverage to eligible Coloradans who are excluded from federal assistance due to immigration status

These programs are funded through the **Health Insurance Affordability Enterprise (HIAE)** and have helped improve coverage rates and increase affordability.

Without additional resources, these programs may face limitations in their ability to soften federal changes:

- Colorado Premium Assistance is currently **limited to those up to 200% FPL**, though many individuals just above that threshold may also experience affordability challenges due to compounding federal support changes.
- Without additional support, **OmniSalud is projected to experience an 80% reduction in available subsidies in 2026**. This reduction would significantly limit enrollment opportunities for eligible participants.

