

Access to specialty care is a particular concern for Coloradans. When certain specialty care is not available in rural areas, residents must travel long distances to urban centers, such as Denver, adding transportation and time costs to their bottom line.

Conclusion

Innovative solutions to these complex health care problems are being implemented throughout the state. Ongoing work in the areas of health information technology, controlling costs through payment reform, and strengthening the health care workforce are just a few of Colorado's initiatives to help improve the health care system.

We urge you to get involved in these solutions by learning more about Colorado's health care reform efforts (<http://www.colorado.gov/healthreform>) and by joining the conversation about health in your community.

¹ Colorado Health Access Survey. Colorado Health Institute (2011).
² Gill JM, Fagan HB, Townsend B, and Mainous AG 3rd. Impact of providing a medical home to the uninsured: evaluation of a statewide program. Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved. 2005; 16(3): 515-35.

Join the Conversation

Colorado HealthStory is working to create an appreciation of our shared experiences of health, one conversation at a time. It is a project of the Colorado Rural Health Center, the Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved and ClinicNET, and is funded by The Colorado Trust and the Colorado Health Foundation.

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Dell



"The first month is hell when going through a health challenge. You don't know who to believe or what to believe and all of the opportunities and all of the options available to you, it's really difficult. Fortunately my supplemental insurance assigned me a field worker that was really, really helpful."

Erich



"It was very frustrating [when applying to programs] because you felt they were just finding ways to brush you off to the side or that this place didn't want to deal with you but we'll recommend this place and maybe they can help you out. It was a great relief to finally have a place that would accept me."

Colton



"[My dad] went to all kinds of doctors and nobody really had any answers for him. Until finally, you know, after too much money out of pocket and 30 doctors or so, [they] finally decided it was due to chronic Lyme disease, which is controversial. Lots of doctors that are a little more progressive will say 'yea, it's a serious problem', and then a lot of the conventional medical community will deny that it even exists."