Medicaid Eligibility Changes and Expected Enrollment Impacts

City Council Health & Safety Committee

February 11, 2026

Purpose & Agenda

- Overview of Federal Changes
- Implementation Timeline
- Expected Enrollment Impacts
- Fiscal and Operational Impact
- DHS Preparation and Coordination
- Key Takeaways

Why This Is Happening

- Federal legislation (HR1) introduces major Medicaid and SNAP changes
- Goal: Manage federal spending and reduce fraud, waste and abuse

Key Federal Changes (Medicaid)

- Medicaid renewals done on the individual level rather than household level (Sept. 2026)

- 6-month renewals for expansion population (Dec 2026)

- Work requirements for adults 19–64 (Dec 2026)

- Immigrant eligibility restrictions (Oct 2026)

- Retroactive coverage limits (Dec 2026)

HR1 Medicaid Timeline

2027
- Increased address verification and eligibility checks required
- Ongoing system and workflow changes to support new federal requirements
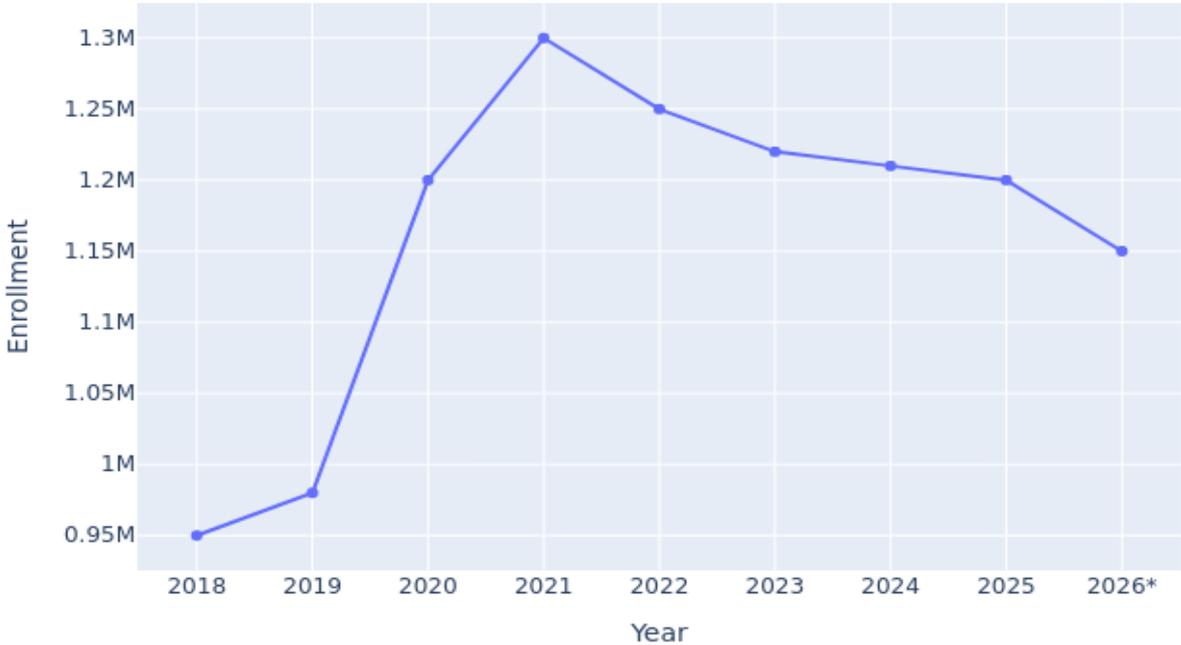
2027-2032 (phased)
- Provider tax reductions phase in over multiple years
- State and local impacts increase gradually as reductions accumulate

Ongoing
- Additional federal guidance and state implementation decisions continue to evolve

Medicaid Enrollment Trend (CO)

Fiscal & Operational Impact

- County workload increase for renewals, verification and new applications (due to churn)

- Pending budget requests: $17M/year for admin support (SFY26–28)

- Provider tax reductions: $900M–$2.5B impact to Medicaid budget by FFY2032

State Preparation

- Staff training; system updates
- Automation planning; workflow adjustments

Coordination & Awareness

- Early conversations with CO Access and HCPF
- Potential collaboration with mayor's office, city council & community partners

What's Still Evolving?

Districting and shared services proposals

Federal guidance

Monitoring enrollment trends

Determining exemptions

State/County Funding

Resource

Understanding the Impact of H.R.1 and Federal Changes to Medicaid

https://hcpf.colorado.gov/impact

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