



COLORADO

# 2020 HEALTH CARE LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE GUIDE

Health care [access and cost](#) remains one of the [most important problems facing America](#).

- The uninsured rate in Colorado was [6.5 percent](#) (361,000 Coloradans) in 2019.
- Colorado's **unemployment rate** jumped from a low of 2.5% in February to [11.3% in April](#) and was [10.5% in June](#) which likely has **severed hundreds of thousands of Coloradans from their employer sponsored insurance**.
- During the Connect for Health Colorado special enrollment period, [14,263 Coloradans](#) enrolled in health insurance from March 20 to April 30, 2020.
- In Colorado, a [disproportionate number of those infected](#) (48.5% on June 30) by COVID-19 are **Black, Indigenous, and people of color** while making up only 32% of the state's population.
- [Access to health care in rural areas](#) has only become more challenging during the pandemic and will likely have **lasting impacts on rural communities**. As of June 30, 2020 the [top five counties](#) with the highest cases per 100,000 people (Logan, Morgan, Saguache, Eagle, and Crowley) were [rural or frontier](#) counties.
- **Seniors are at greatest risk**. Older adults ages 60+ make up [89.5% of COVID deaths](#) in the state as of June 30, 2020 while only attributing to 20% of the state's population.
- A [May budget forecast](#) from legislative economists expects the coronavirus to make a \$6.8 billion dent in state tax revenue over the next three years.

The COVID-19 pandemic has illuminated the need for practical solutions that address both the immediate challenges and the long-term gaps in our health care systems to ensure Coloradans can access quality health care they can afford.

## KEY MESSAGES FOR CANDIDATES:

- Acknowledge the moment:** "Our country is at a pivotal moment. The pandemic, economic recession, and national discussion on race have created a renewed call for action. They have also magnified the critical problems that exist in our health care system."
- Take an active stance:** "It is long past time to examine our systems and address gaps that have existed for decades. We must find solutions and common ground to build a health care system that serves everyone."
- Commit to prioritize people's needs:** "I will put people's health care needs first and I'm already formalizing the ways I gather input and work with community and business leaders to put effective solutions in place."
- Commit to both addressing disparities and finding common ground:** "The health care system, as it's currently structured, isn't working for far too many. I will work to address the lack of fairness and shared needs to build a health care system that works for all of us."



Learn more about United States of Care at [unitedstatesofcare.org](https://unitedstatesofcare.org).

For more information or to seek assistance, contact USofCare at [Help@USofCare.org](mailto:Help@USofCare.org).