COLORADO
Safety Net Collaborative

ISSUE BRIEF · 2027 SESSION

Request: $50 million for the Provider Stabilization Fund

CSNC asks the General Assembly to fund the Provider Stabilization Fund at $50 million a year from FY 2027-28. The fund pays safety net providers for each low-income, uninsured Coloradan they serve. Its state funding steps down next year and ends after FY 2029-30, just as H.R. 1 begins pushing Coloradans off Medicaid. *This is the most cost-effective way to prevent harm for our most vulnerable populations and take a strong step toward Primary Care for All.*

WHERE THE FUND STANDS

FY 2025-26	$44.8 million to 56 providers for 143,727 eligible patients, about $312 a patient, including $20 million in private donations. Sixteen CSNC member clinics received $4.0 million.
FY 2026-27	$19.9 million in state funding to 61 providers for 126,294 patients, about $157 a patient. A private donation round is expected in early 2027.
FY 2027-28 on	Funding falls to $15 million a year, about $119 a patient at current counts, and ends after FY 2029-30.

Why it matters. The fund reaches health centers, rural providers, behavioral health centers and independent clinics through one channel, on a simple per-patient formula with independent verification. H.R. 1 drives the rising need, and its cuts arrive whether or not the state finds new revenue: about 378,500 Medicaid members face its work requirements starting in January 2027, about 7,000 lawfully present immigrants lost coverage on October 1, 2026, and its provider tax limits will narrow hospital donors' capacity from October 2027. Hospital charity care and bad debt rose 31.5 percent in 2024.

SAFETY NET INVESTMENTS SAVE MONEY

1.8×
odds of a return ED visit or hospital stay within 90 days for uninsured patients not referred to a partner free clinic, at 2.3 times the cost

$1.30–$5.50
in avoided emergency and hospital costs per dollar of clinic care, across published studies

$163 million
in volunteer clinician time donated through a Florida state program that cost $579,539 to run

$7.09
in net government savings per public dollar spent on women's health

THE ASK

Fund the Provider Stabilization Fund at $50 million a year starting in FY 2027-28, about $396 per eligible patient at current counts.

Fund the added $35 million, and the fund's extension past FY 2029-30, from the General Fund, including Amendment 87 health care revenue. The program parameters should stay the same.

THE COST

$35 million
a year above the $15 million state loan, before any private contributions

1.8%
of Amendment 87's estimated FY 2027-28 revenue would close that gap

Per-patient amounts and costs are CSNC calculations from HCPF data, using the FY 2026-27 count of 126,294 eligible patients. Amendment 87 revenue estimate: Legislative Council, 2026 Blue Book. Sources: H.R. 1 (Pub. L. 119-21); SB25-290; HCPF, PSF award announcements and SFY 2026-27 payment summary; HCPF, CHASE Annual Report (January 2026); HCPF, Work Requirements FAQ (June 2026); Colorado Hospital Association donor update (March 2026). Cost-effectiveness figures, with full citations: CSNC white paper, From Dollars to Care (October 2026).

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A stronger safety net. A healthier Colorado.