



COLORADO

FY 2022/23

**Joint Technology Committee
Rural Connectivity Project Presentation**

December 15, 2021

Rural Connectivity Progress



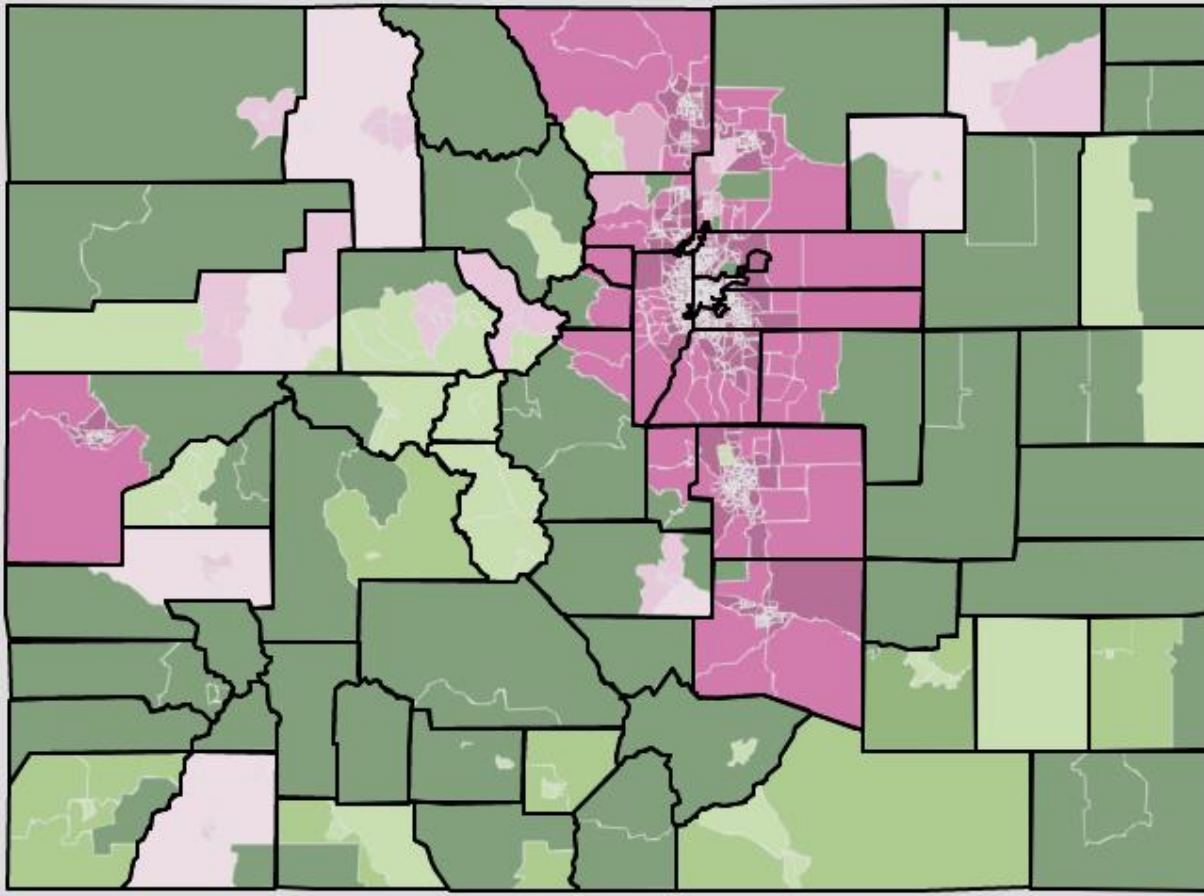
Rural Health Matters to ALL Coloradans



Rural Connectivity: What is Health Information Exchange?



Rural Colorado



Source: Colorado Department of Local Affairs, State Demography Office, RUCA by Census Tract
Darker **purple** indicates the most urban, darker **green** indicates the most rural

- Majority of Colorado's geographic area is considered rural
- Rural residents disproportionately lack access to:
 - Income and employment opportunities
 - Community infrastructure, including reliable broadband
 - Safe and healthy homes
 - Reliable transportation
 - Healthy and affordable foods
 - **Healthcare**

Impacts of Rural Connectivity



Rural Connectivity Program In Practice

“[It] used to take me three hours to get to appointments, but now I can see my provider quicker, more often, and there is a closer monitoring of my health.”

- Patient at a Rural Health Center

“A longitudinal health record helps me to know when my patient has gone to another provider, so I do not need to repeat tests or imaging; without this information, I am [limited] as a provider.”

- Provider at a rural facility

HCPF Support for Rural Connectivity Funding Request

Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF):

- Provides coverage to > 1.56M Coloradans (25%) & almost 30% of Rural
- Collaborative w/OeHI plus fiscal agent, conduit to Fed match \$\$
- Aligned Goals - affordability, equity, quality, access, outcomes
- Coordinated efforts to ensure initiatives are strategic & maximize impact



Rural Health is Critical to Achieving A Colorado for All

Much care today migrates out of rural/frontier areas to the front range, creating an access and disparity burden for patients. The care delivery process for rural Colorado also generates the highest costs in the nation. Care migration further impacts local jobs and the economy:



Image: Jefferson County Health Action Partnership

- Healthcare generates 17%+ of GDP
 - Jobs, tax revenues
- Must improve Rural healthcare affordability by investing in this foundation
- This foundation is also critical for Rural Colorado to keep pace going forward

Technology Tools Improved by Rural Connectivity

This request enables critical data & technology for rural health care providers that propels current and next generation health care evolution:

- **Care insights** - shares care provided to reduce duplication
- **Vaccines** - shows provider real-time, in the EHR, whether patient vaccinated
- **Care Coordination** - shows provider results of referrals to services/programs
- **Telehealth** - telehealth records from visit real-time to PCP
- **eConsults** - shows all providers eConsults that occurred (supports PCPs & proper specialist referrals)
- **Social Determinants of Health** - enables providers to prescribe programs (not just pills) thru Prescriber Tool Phase II in process
- **Providers of Distinction** - enables referrals to high quality, affordable & local care, to the front range & between Rural providers
- Complemented by \$30M rural stim in Governor's budget

Progress & Opportunities

Rural Connectivity So Far:

- 64 of 84 total rural safety-net facilities **connected to Health Information Exchange** - more to come!
- Completed a **comprehensive environmental scan**
- **NEW analytics platform** developed and launched with **5 dashboards**
- 75% of safety-net rural facilities **connected to the Rural Analytics platform**

Focus for Continued Efforts:

- Independent rural health practices → where most rural patients and visitors receive care

Improved coordination results in:

- Better experience for patients
- Lower burden for providers
- Cost savings for all Coloradans

Rural Connectivity Project: Funding Request

What's the funding for?

One-time HIE Onboarding Connectivity	\$2,520,000
HIE Subscription Fees	\$1,080,000
Data Analytics	\$2,160,000
Technical Assistance	\$3,900,000
System Upgrades for Facilities	\$1,080,000
Total Request	\$10,740,000

Funding Sources for Rural Connectivity

State General Fund	\$5,370,000
Federal Match	\$5,370,000
Total Request	\$10,740,000

Questions?