



## COLORADO

Department of Health Care  
Policy & Financing

1570 Grant Street  
Denver, CO 80203

March 22, 2022

Secretary Xavier Becerra  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20201  
Attn: HHS Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs & Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response

Via email

**RE: Colorado Requests the End of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) to be at Least One Day After Any Fiscal Calendar Quarter Starts**

Dear Secretary Becerra:

The Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF) serves as Colorado's single state agency for the administration of Medicaid (known as Health First Colorado in our state) and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHP+ in Colorado).

As the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) nears conclusion, Colorado HCPF is requesting that the end of the PHE occur at least one day after the start of a fiscal quarter.

While HHS' Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has provided up to 14 months for states to re-determine members' eligibility for Medicaid, and has encouraged states to leverage that time, Congress has not provided the enhanced funding to do so. Ending the PHE at least one day after the start of a fiscal quarter would provide one quarter of the enhanced 6.2% Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP), which is critical to covering the costs of care during this up to 14-month redetermination processing period. For example, if, as expected, HHS extends the PHE one more time in April, we request that HHS extend the current PHE at least through July 2, 2022 but preferably through July 16th to leverage the full 90 day PHE extension.

This full quarter of funding also increases our ability to leverage the 14-month period to meet our mutual goal of connecting individuals who no longer qualify for our safety net coverage programs to other coverage, especially through our state-based health insurance marketplace.



Please note that this request is in addition to the March 8, 2022 request to provide states with a 90-day notice when the PHE will end as requested through the letter submitted by 13 state governors, including Colorado.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please contact Chris Underwood, Deputy Chief of Staff, at [Chris.Underwood@state.co.us](mailto:Chris.Underwood@state.co.us) for more information or if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Kim Bimestefer  
Executive Director  
Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing

Enclosed: March 8, 2022, 13 Governors' Letter to HHS

Cc:

HHS Office of Intergovernmental and External Affairs and Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response

Eve Lieberman, Chief Policy Advisor and Legislative Counsel, Colorado Governor Jared Polis

