

# Consumers in Arapahoe County Will See Higher Marketplace Premiums in 2023 Without the Extension of ARPA Subsidies

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021. ARPA temporarily enhances and expands eligibility for the Affordable Care Act (ACA) premium subsidies for 2021 and 2022 by providing:

- Low-income individuals with incomes up to 150% of the federal poverty level (FPL) who are not eligible for Medicaid access to \$0 premiums.
- Individuals with incomes between 150% and 400% FPL enhanced generosity of premium subsidies.
- Individuals with incomes above 400% access to expanded eligibility for premium subsidies.

Since enactment of ARPA subsidies, Marketplace enrollment hit an all-time high of 14.5 million people nationwide. Enhanced subsidies make premiums more affordable, including increasing access to \$0 premium plans and low-cost plans with premiums less than \$50 per month.<sup>1</sup>

**ARPA tax credit enhancements are set to expire on December 31, 2022. Congress should adopt ARPA tax credits permanently to provide certainty to millions of Americans. In the absence of Congressional action, millions of Americans will be faced with increased premiums in Fall 2022 during open enrollment.**

**Americans continue to encounter pandemic-related financial strain and now face record inflation, with higher prices on essential household like gas and groceries. Extending ARPA subsidies will mean low- and middle-income families don't have to worry about spending more of their household budget on health care.**

To measure the potential impact, AHIP commissioned Avalere Health to estimate out-of-pocket premiums for people in Arapahoe County in 2023 with and without ARPA premium tax credit enhancements. **The findings: Thousands of Coloradans will face higher health care premiums if these enhanced tax credits are not made permanent.**

## Consumer Scenarios: Increases in Monthly and Annual Out-of-Pocket Premiums if ARPA Lapses

<b>27-Year-Old Individual</b>	 <b>\$66</b> Per Month	 <b>\$788</b> Per Year
<b>46-Year-Old Individual</b>	 <b>\$109</b> Per Month	 <b>\$1,312</b> Per Year
<b>55-Year-Old Couple</b>	 <b>\$664</b> Per Month	 <b>\$7,968</b> Per Year

The analysis focuses on 3 typical Coloradans<sup>2</sup>:

1. 27-year-old individual earning \$19,191 per year (149% FPL)
2. 46-year-old individual earning \$41,860 per year (325% FPL)
3. 55-year-old couple earning \$70,551 per year (405% FPL)

These Coloradans would face annual premiums that are hundreds of dollars higher if these tax credit enhancements are not made permanent.

## Broader Impact to Coloradans

More than 198,412 Coloradans made a plan selection for marketplace coverage during the 2022 annual open enrollment period, a 10% increase over the 2021 open enrollment period.<sup>3</sup> If ARPA subsidies expire at the end of 2022, experts say<sup>4</sup>:

- 42,000 Coloradans would become uninsured.
- 17,000 Coloradans would lose all subsidy eligibility to lower premiums but remain insured.
- 101,000 Coloradans would remain enrolled in marketplace coverage with reduced premiums subsidies and owe more premium out-of-pocket.

**Coloradans need Congress to take action now. Making ARPA tax credits permanent will make health care more affordable and accessible for hardworking families.**

<sup>1</sup> Avalere Health. "Measuring Scope of COVID-19 Relief Coverage Expansion Provisions." Available [here](#).

<sup>2</sup> Note that all consumer scenarios were non-smokers and were assumed to be enrolled on the second-lowest cost silver plan.

<sup>3</sup> Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. 2022 Open Enrollment Report. March 23, 2022. Available [here](#).

<sup>4</sup> Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. Projected Coverage and Subsidy Impacts if the American Rescue Plan's Marketplace Provisions Sunset in 2023. March 23, 2022. Available [here](#).