

JARED POLIS
GOVERNOR



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December 30, 2025

Kelly Flenniken, Executive Director, Colorado Counties, Inc.
Jennifer O'Hearon, Rio Blanco Commissioner and Chair, Human Services
Marsha Porter-Norton, LaPlata Commissioner and Vice-Chair, Human Services

Executive Director Flenniken, Commissioner O'Hearon, and Commissioner Porter-Norton,

Thank you for your letter on December 12, 2025. My Administration is eager to partner with you and county leadership across Colorado to ensure that our state-supervised, county-administered health and human services delivery system continues to deliver for the most vulnerable Coloradans. Let's work together to improve efficiency and ensure easier access to services.

As you note in your letter, federal changes under H.R. 1 mean that we need to adapt our delivery model. Our foremost goal in any of these efforts is to improve the experience of our clients and maximize efficiency in service delivery. Clearly, any changes must occur in collaboration between the state and counties, who are our implementers on the ground, closest to the constituents applying for and receiving benefits. Your letter seeks collaboration in the areas of technology readiness, eligibility business processes, fiscal implications, legal considerations and flexibility, and alignment between state agencies. We agree that each of these areas are ripe for collaboration and look forward to working with you and your colleagues on these and other issues.

The top concern you raised in your letter was around the timeline for implementation. Based on this feedback from counties that we have heard over the course of some of the work sessions conducted to date, we are seeking to delay the initial district rollout, from July 2026 to July 2027. This extension will provide additional time to work through the details of implementation, train county workers, and also help us to ensure that the right technology is in place. It is in this spirit of compromise that we hope to proceed.

I have instructed my office as well as the Departments of Human Services (CDHS) and Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) to work closely with county commissioners, human services directors, stakeholders, and other experts on the development of this plan as we move into the legislative session in the coming weeks. We look forward to your partnership as we put vulnerable Coloradans first and work together to ensure that we can meet the new challenges we jointly face.

Our team looks forward to the upcoming meetings in January and to engaging with you over the coming months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis".

Jared Polis
Governor
State of Colorado