



Preventing Unintended Pregnancies is a Smart Investment

Recent investments in CDPHE’s Colorado Family Planning Initiative have provided greater access to contraception, including long-acting reversible contraception (LARC), and saved significant birth-related costs that the Colorado Medicaid program would otherwise have to cover.

For every dollar invested in the LARC program, an estimated average of \$5.85 was avoided within a three-year period by the Colorado Medicaid program—a good return on investment. The birth rate for Medicaid-eligible women ages 15 to 24 dropped sharply each year between 2010 and 2012. CDPHE estimates that Colorado saved between \$49 million and \$111 million in birth-related Medicaid costs.

As state revenues recover, Colorado must continue to use its resources wisely. Providing access to the most effective contraceptives for low-income women avoids additional Medicaid costs and reduces reliance on other government programs. This allows the state to shift public health spending to new priorities.

\$1 Invested in the LARC program = **\$5.85** Costs to Medicaid avoided

For every \$1.00 invested in the LARC program an estimated average of \$5.85 was avoided by the Colorado Medicaid program over a three year period.

CDPHE Colorado Family Planning Initiative

About the Colorado Family Planning Initiative

The Colorado Family Planning Initiative (CFPI) at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) has successfully expanded contraceptive options, enabling more than 30,000 women in the state to choose the most effective contraceptives - intrauterine devices (IUDs) and implants.

For more than 40 years, Title X family planning clinics have played a critical role in ensuring access to these devices as well as other family planning services for millions of low-income or uninsured women and their families. Since 2009, a boost in funding from the CFPI to Title X clinics increased health care provider education and training and reduced cost-barriers, enabling thousands of Colorado women to choose the most effective forms of contraception. For more information, please contact Eliza Shultz, CDPHE Legislative Liaison, at (303) 913-1955 or eliza.schultz@state.co.us.

