



## Support Continued Access to Effective Birth Control

*Good for the Health & Prosperity of Colorado's Women, Children and Our State*

By investing state funds in a long-standing, effective program, we can:

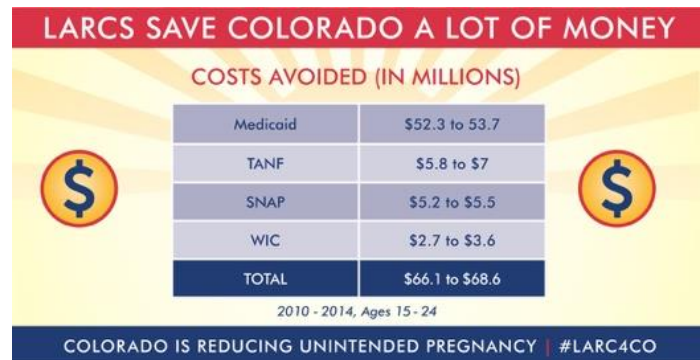
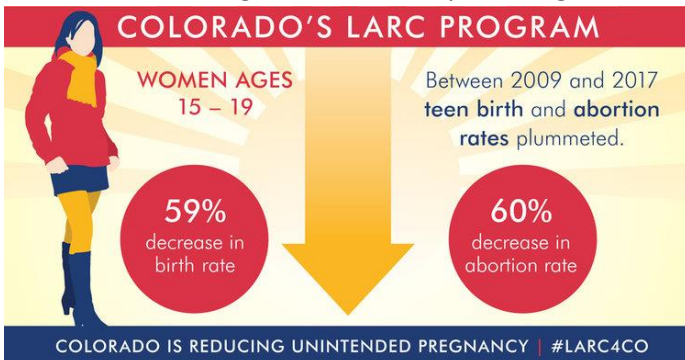
- Support the health and well-being of women and their children by reducing unintended pregnancies,
- Empower women to attain their education goals, helping create financially secure and strong families,
- Lower the abortion rate, and
- Reduce the number of people who need to use Medicaid and other public assistance programs.

“Having access to low cost LARC methods allowed me to make my own choices about my reproductive health. Money was no longer an obstacle for me to protect myself and put myself in control of my body and my life.”

- Lesley, LARC recipient, 24,  
Denver resident

### **Background**

Bipartisan support of affordable Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARCs) – including IUDs and hormonal implants – has made Colorado a leader in public health. These investments have dramatically reduced Colorado's rates of teen pregnancy and abortion, and helped the state of Colorado avoid millions of dollars of spending on other support programs. Helping men and women get access to the most reliable and effective forms of birth control helps families and our community. It is well documented that due to the systemic barriers they face, families that experience unintended pregnancies often have poorer health outcomes for themselves and their children, struggle to and often do not complete school, have difficulty advancing their careers and need to use more public assistance. Since Colorado began expanding access to the most effective, long-acting forms of contraception, 51,427 women have chosen these methods, and many of them received care through CDPHE's Family Planning clinics.



### **Ongoing Need**

However, there are still thousands of people in need of a reproductive health care safety net – especially in rural and frontier parts of our state where the most barriers exist to accessing family planning services. These women come from several groups:

- Some women do not want to use their private insurance coverage for fear of a breach of confidentiality.
- Some women may not be able to get their preferred form of birth control through their private insurance due to the rules of their insurance coverage.
- Many women in Colorado still lack health insurance coverage. These women may be eligible for coverage through a public program but unenrolled, or ineligible for financial assistance either because they fall into the “family glitch” or make too much to qualify for tax credits. A small number of these women may be active and contributing Coloradans who do not have proper documentation.
- Further, early data indicate a recent increase in Colorado's adult uninsured rate and we remain concerned that the Trump Administration's proposed “public charge” rule could cause a further increase. The Colorado Health Institute estimates that 75,000 Coloradans would lose health insurance coverage if that rule is implemented as proposed.



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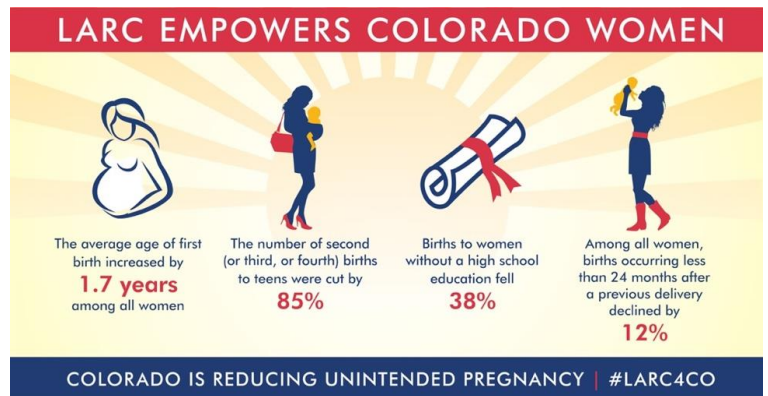
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A recently finalized federal Title X rule will lead to fewer providers in Colorado being able to accept federal funds to run their family planning programs, decreasing access to these services across the state.

By investing additional General Fund dollars into this proven program, we can continue this critical work. **An increase in funding of \$4,825,000, above existing general funds, would maintain access across the state under these new federal rules, and allow Colorado to expand access beyond the current program, especially in rural and frontier areas.**

### Reasons to support continued funding for this important program

- ✓ It is good for the health and well-being of Colorado's children and families.
- ✓ It supports the goals of educational attainment, financial stability and self-sufficiency, decreasing the need to access public assistance programs.
- ✓ It reduces the abortion rate.
- ✓ It has broad community support as well as bipartisan support among lawmakers.



### 2019 Supporters

Colorado Children's Campaign