



# WHAT IS THE HEALTH INSURANCE BUY-IN PROGRAM?

## Health Insurance Buy-In Fact Sheet

The Health Insurance Buy-In Program (HIBI) is a premium assistance program for Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program) members. It sends monthly payments to members for all or a portion of the cost of their commercial health insurance premiums, and in some cases also reimburses for deductibles, coinsurance, and co-pays.

### Who is eligible?

- Federal law requires employers to allow employees to enroll in their group insurance within 60 days of when a participant is found eligible for HIBI, even if this occurs outside of their usual open enrollment period.
- Applicants may choose to enroll in a health insurance policy after applying to the HIBI program.
- To apply for HIBI you must be Health First Colorado-eligible and have access to commercial health insurance.
- To be eligible for the HIBI program, the annual cost of an applicant's commercial health insurance must be less than the estimated total cost of the applicant's annual medical expenses, out-of-pocket costs, and administrative costs.
- An applicant does not need to have a catastrophic illness to be eligible for HIBI.
- Any individual with a high-cost medical condition will be considered for the Colorado HIBI program.
- The HIBI program eligibility does not affect Health First Colorado eligibility.



### **What are the benefits of HIBI participation?**

- HIBI participants receive monthly payments for a portion of the cost of their commercial health insurance premiums.
- Program participants receive benefits from both the HIBI program and Health First Colorado at the same time.
- Program participants may also receive reimbursements for payments made toward deductibles, coinsurance and co-pays, whether visiting a Health First Colorado enrolled provider or a provider within the network.
- In some cases, COBRA continuation health insurance is offered to recently terminated employees for up to 18 months. For more information, contact your benefits coordinator.

### **How does an individual or family apply?**

- HIBI applications and documents can be sent to the program toll-free by:
  - Fax: 855.226.4424, or
- To the HIBI mailing address at:
  - 1550 Larimer Street, Box #1000, Denver, CO 80202.
- Those interested may apply online at [www.mycohibi.com](http://www.mycohibi.com); simply click "apply" to begin.
- Applicants must send in the following documents and information:
  - Completed HIBI application
  - A copy of the front and back of your insurance card
  - Summary of benefits for your policy plan or desired policy plan
  - Your health insurance rate sheet showing employee and employer costs for all tiers of coverage
  - A recent paystub or other verification to show proof of your premium payment



**Once you have applied:**

- A determination letter will be mailed within 30 business days of submitting an application and other required documentation.
- HIBI participants will receive monthly payments for a portion of their premium cost for as long as they are eligible for HIBI and are in good standing with the program.
- If participants become ineligible at any time, they will receive a letter in the mail stating why they are no longer eligible for HIBI participation.

**For more information about HIBI visit [www.mycohibi.com](http://www.mycohibi.com).**

**Program Contact:**

*Colorado HIBI Program*

855.692.6442