



## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is the Commission's purpose?

The Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform (sometimes referred to as the "208 Commission") was established by SB06-208 to study and establish health care reform models that expand health care coverage and decrease health care costs for Colorado residents. The Commission is authorized to examine options for expanding affordable health coverage for all Colorado residents in both the public and private sector markets, with special attention given to the uninsured, underinsured, and those at risk of financial hardship due to medical expenses.

### 2. What is the Commission's composition?

The Commission has 27 members appointed on a bipartisan basis, representing consumers, purchasers, health care providers, business leaders, insurance experts, government officials and policy experts.

### 3. Who appointed the Commission?

The Senate President, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Governor Owens appointed six commissioners each (18 total); the House Minority Leader and the Senate Minority Leader appointed three each (6 total). Subsequent to his inauguration, Governor Ritter appointed three additional commissioners.

### 4. What are the Commission's working timeline and specific deliverables?

The Commission began its work in November 2006. In early 2007, it released a request for comprehensive health reform proposals. Thirty-one proposals were submitted to the Commission, and reviewed by commissioners in April and May. On May 18, 2007, the Commission identified four proposals for in-depth technical assessment, the preliminary results of which are due by July 15, 2007. Additional analysis will take place after the preliminary report, during which time the Commission also has the option of developing its own proposal. The Commission will submit a final report with recommendations to the General Assembly by January 31, 2008.

### 5. Who is conducting the technical assessment?

The Commission has contracted with The Lewin Group to analyze the selected proposals.

### 6. How is the public involved?

Throughout its work, the Commission is conducting public meetings around the state, soliciting input and feedback. In summer 2007, the Commission will form citizen task forces representing rural communities, underserved populations, providers and the business community to provide focused perspectives on issues specifically affecting those groups. In addition, all Commission meetings are open to the public.



## Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform

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**7. How is the Commission staffed?**

Commission staff includes a project coordinator, two technical advisors, a communications consultant and a project assistant.

**8. How is the Commission funded?**

SB06-208 created a Health Care Reform Fund. Sources of funding currently include \$100,000 in state appropriations and nearly \$400,000 in matching funds raised through gifts, grants and donations. The Commission's project coordinator is responsible for raising the balance of funds needed for the project. The Act explicitly states that donors shall be anonymous to the project administrator/technical advisor and Commission members.

To allow for additional flexibility for fundraising and other needs, the project coordinator has partnered with the Colorado Foundation for Families and Children (the Foundation). The Foundation has entered into a contract with the State to serve as a fiscal sponsor for the Commission and has established a private fund to receive tax deductible donations in support of the Commission's work.

**9. Are Commission meetings public?**

Yes.

**10. Where do I go for more information about the Commission including meeting times and locations?**

Please go to: [www.colorado.gov/208commission](http://www.colorado.gov/208commission) for information, updates, meeting times and locations, and a list of Commission members.



## **Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform**

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### **About the Colorado Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform**

During its 2006 legislative session, the Colorado General Assembly passed Senate Bill 208 (SB06-208) establishing the Blue Ribbon Commission for Health Care Reform.

The Commission's purpose is to study and establish health care reform models that expand health care coverage and decrease health care costs for Colorado residents. The Commission is authorized to examine options for expanding affordable health coverage for all Colorado residents in both the public and private sector markets, with special attention given to the uninsured, underinsured, and those at risk of financial hardship due to medical expenses

The Commission will solicit, examine, and evaluate health care reform proposals, selecting the top few (3 to 5) for in-depth technical assessment by an independent contractor. The Commission will hold meetings around the state and provide as many avenues for public input as possible. It will complete a final report with recommendations to the General Assembly by January 31, 2008.

The Commission has 27 bipartisan members, representing consumers, purchasers, health care providers, business leaders, insurance experts, elected officials and policy experts. Commissioners were appointed by former Governor Owens, Governor Ritter and majority and minority leaders from the Colorado Senate and House of Representatives.

The Commission is currently funded by \$100,000 in state appropriations and nearly \$400,000 in matching funds raised through gifts, grants and donations. The Commission's project coordinator is responsible for raising the balance of funds needed for the project. The Act explicitly states that donors shall be anonymous to the project administrator/technical advisor and Commission members.

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For additional information, please contact Commission staff at [208commission@coloradofoundation.org](mailto:208commission@coloradofoundation.org) or go to [www.colorado.gov/208commission](http://www.colorado.gov/208commission).