



COLORADO

Governor's Office of
Information Technology

Tech Debt | Mainframe Decommissioning Program FAQ

This FAQ is a living document and will continue to be updated as more information becomes available. If you have a question not answered in this FAQ, please email Shelly Porter at shelly.porter@state.co.us

General Information

1. What is the Mainframe Decommissioning Program?

In operations since the early 90s, the mainframe system operated by OIT needs to be updated and is also very expensive for those using its services. If a component fails, replacement parts are difficult to find, if at all, and restoring services to full operations will be difficult. With several essential applications hosted on the mainframe, a service disruption could be catastrophic to the residents of Colorado, in particular those that are recipients of critical life-sustaining state benefits. This decommission program is crucial for reducing tech debt, stabilization and ultimate modernization of the applications and services that currently reside on the mainframe.

2. Why is OIT doing this?

By rehosting essential applications on highly available platforms, OIT can continue to deliver critical services supporting Coloradans by providing uninterrupted state benefits and payments, access to child-related services, and processing payroll for state employees. In addition, the interface between state and federal government agencies (Social Security Administration, Internal Revenue Service, and the Office of Child Support Enforcement) will be upgraded and made more secure. These changes will ensure government services are more accessible, easier to use and more secure for all Coloradans.

3. Who is affected?

Practically every state agency, in some way. The agencies and applications impacted include

- Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS)
- Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE)
- Colorado Department of Personnel and Administration (DPA)
- Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF)
- Colorado Benefits Management System (CBMS)
- Colorado Department of Revenue (DOR)
- Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA)



COLORADO

Governor's Office of Information Technology

4. When will this happen?

We are exploring options for the modernization of the affected applications and servers. Once solutions and vendors are identified, we will work with state and local partners to schedule and complete the modernization portion of this effort. The timelines will be developed in collaboration with our agency partners.

5. Where will the services go?

We are currently in the process of stabilizing the existing mainframe. Doing this ensures that Disaster Recovery (DR) and Continuity of Operations plans (COOPs) are in place for applications and services on the mainframe. This restores failover system functionality and restores primary backup.

6. How will it be completed?

We will shift applications and servers to the Cloud or secure storage options at the Lakewood Data Center. This does not change any functionality or modernize current applications or services.

We are exploring options for the modernization of the affected applications and servers. Once solutions and vendors are identified, we will work with state and local partners to schedule and complete the modernization portion of this effort.