



April 5, 2018

Members of the Colorado State Board of Human Services  
Colorado State Board of Human Services  
1575 Sherman Street  
Denver, CO 80203

**RE: Updates to Broad Based Categorical Eligibility, 18-02-07-02**

Dear Colorado State Board of Human Services Members,

As proponents of ending hunger in Colorado, we the undersigned partners support the proposed rule change to align the eligibility thresholds for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, 18-02-07-02.

Despite our national reputation as a healthy state, hunger remains a reality for too many Coloradans. One in 10 Coloradans, including one in six children and one in 10 seniors is considered to be food insecure, meaning their access to adequate food is limited by a lack of money and other resources. Food insecurity is a household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food. Hunger is an individual-level physiological condition that may result from food insecurity. The effects of hunger on individuals and families are far-reaching and impact communities across the state. Being food secure and having reliable access to enough healthy foods, positively influences the overall health and well-being of individuals at every stage of life.

Recognizing this challenge, a group of leaders came together in 2017 to develop a shared vision and actionable road map for ending hunger in our state. That plan is The Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger. The vision of the Blueprint is that all Coloradans have access to affordable and healthy food in their communities. There are five goal areas identified as opportunities to make a measurable difference for Coloradans:

1. Increase public understanding and awareness that solving hunger is vital to the health and well-being of all individuals and families, the Colorado economy and every local community.
2. Increase the number of Coloradans who can access affordable, nutritious food in their communities.
3. Increase the number of Coloradans who can access food assistance and nutritious food through community-based organizations.
4. Maximize SNAP and WIC enrollment to propel Colorado to become a leading state for enrollment in these health and nutrition benefits.
5. Maximize participation in Federal Child Nutrition programs, moving Colorado to become a national leader in delivery of these vital programs.



We applaud the efforts of the Colorado Department of Human Services to align the income standards for SNAP among different populations. The proposed change will address specific recommendations included under Goal #4 of the Blueprint. This proposed change will align Colorado regulations with federal law and help the working poor, while reducing churn, and therefore, county workload.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this important development for Colorado. We urge you to move forward with this emergency rule change as proposed. If you have any questions about these comments, please contact Alexis Weightman, senior policy officer at the Colorado Health Foundation at [AWeightman@ColoradoHealth.org](mailto:AWeightman@ColoradoHealth.org) or 303.953.3659.

Sincerely,

American Heart Association

Atlantis Community Inc.

Benefits Data Trust

Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado

Centura Health

Children's Hospital Colorado

Colorado Center on Law and Policy

Colorado Children's Campaign

Colorado Covering Kids and Families

Colorado Cross Disability Coalition

Colorado Fiscal Institute

Colorado Prevention Alliance

Family Resource Center Association

Food Bank of the Rockies

Healthier Colorado

Hunger Free Colorado

LiveWell Colorado

Metro Caring

Share Our Strength's Cooking Matters Colorado

Stahlman Disability Consulting, LLC

The Colorado Health Foundation

The Denver Foundation