



The Colorado
Health Foundation™

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June 28, 2018

Immediate Office of the Secretary
Office of the Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

RE: Facilitation of Public-Private Dialogue to Increase Innovation and Investment in the Healthcare Sector, FR Doc. 2018-12234

Deputy Secretary Eric D. Hargan,

The Colorado Health Foundation is grateful for the opportunity to comment on this request for information (RFI), regarding the healthcare sector innovation and investment workgroup. We also applaud the Department's efforts to seek out new ways to spur innovation and investment in health care and to increase dialogue with important stakeholders in this process.

The Colorado Health Foundation is the state's largest private foundation and the third largest health foundation in the nation. We work closely with partners in the private, public, and nonprofit sectors to bring health within reach for all Coloradans. We urge the Department to include representatives from philanthropic organizations as a key stakeholder, convener, and investment partner within this new workgroup because we have learned that foundations have unique opportunities to support and accelerate private sector innovations that can address many of our country's important health challenges that disproportionately impact low income communities.

Within the bounds of the workgroup, philanthropic organizations would be well positioned to contribute expertise about serving communities of need including Medicaid populations and access to critical technical and financial resources. For example, many philanthropic organizations have embraced opportunities to help minimize early-stage risk and volatility of a startup venture, allowing traditional investment sources to become available earlier and during other critical innovation and development opportunities.

We believe that connecting innovators with private sector partnerships and resources, before seeking integration with public payers like the Department of Health and Human Services, or state and local agencies, can lead to scalable models of innovation that bring health within reach for individuals, families, and communities. Leveraging partnerships with private philanthropy could also transform new





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investment opportunities for existing programs like Medicaid and safety net services, and may incentivize change in the broader healthcare system.

Many philanthropic organizations are also deeply connected to their communities and to the populations they serve. As a result, foundations and other charitable organizations are able to serve as neutral conveners on a wide range of issue areas. For this workgroup, foundations can serve as facilitators between other stakeholders and local-level, on-the-ground resources and perspectives across our communities. These connections and relationships, often with grantees and direct service providers, would provide the Department and the future workgroup with access to robust community dialogue and subject matter expertise. Including foundations on this workgroup can help to ensure that innovation within the healthcare sector aligns with what communities identify as their most important needs and priorities for improving their health.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to this proposed workgroup process. If you have any questions, or seek clarification, please contact Jin Alexander Tsuchiya, public policy officer at the Colorado Health Foundation, at jtsuchiya@coloradohealth.org, or (303) 953-3667.

Sincerely,

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