



# Progress Report

COLORADO HEALTH FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

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## Colorado Health Symposium Addresses Behavioral Health Inequities



Thank you to everyone who joined us earlier this month for the 2018 [Colorado Health Symposium](#). The conference presented a broad look at the complex ecosystem of behavioral health and addressed how inequities - experienced at the individual, community and systems levels - create barriers to achieving mental wellness.

This year's Symposium aimed to create a space for honest conversations on the behavioral health challenges we're experiencing or seeing across Colorado. Speakers touched on a wide-range of topics; from the opioid epidemic and rising suicide rates, to the need for better access to behavioral health care and the power of storytelling in response to stigma. A Listening Lab forum on the final day of the

conference encouraged attendees to share their perspectives on how we can better work together to close the behavioral health equity gap for all Coloradans.

You can [watch plenary and keynote sessions](#) and [view presentations](#) online. We also encourage you to continue the conversation about equity in behavioral health on social media by using the hashtag [#18CHS](#) and following [@HealthSymposium](#).



## Colorado Youth Health

Responses from 15,000 students statewide in the latest biennial Healthy Kids Colorado Survey highlight trends in the health and well-being of young people in Colorado.

[Learn...](#)

## Behavioral Health Support

Looking for behavioral health supports or services? Many local resources are available to provide help for individuals experiencing behavioral health issues.

[Find...](#)

## KaBOOM! Playground Build

Sign up to join the Foundation and our partners, KaBOOM!, Valley Settlement and Crawford Properties LLC on Aug. 18 for a playground build in the Eagle County community of El Jebel.

[Volunteer...](#)

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## Foundation Names Liza Marron as the Recipient of the 2018 Dr. Licona Award



Earlier this month, the Foundation recognized Liza Marron for the [2018 Dr. Virgilio Licona Community Health Leadership Award](#) at the [Colorado Health Symposium](#). This annual award program seeks to recognize Coloradans who are finding innovative and effective strategies to overcoming community health barriers across the state.

A true champion for social justice, Liza has relentlessly shined a light on community health issues by raising the voices of those left in the shadows. Her lifelong path of activism is a testament to Dr. Licona's unwavering commitment to those most in need.

Liza is the founding director of the San Luis Valley Local Foods Coalition (SLVLFC) in southern Colorado, a nonprofit organization that seeks to foster an equitable local food system that restores the health of the people, community, economy and ecosystem. With Liza at the helm, the SLVLFC negotiated with a local school district to preserve 38 acres near Alamosa, Colorado. Securing this land thus allowed newly unemployed migrant workers the opportunity to grow fresh food while temporarily out of work. Six years later, the families continue to partner at the park; some grow food in family garden plots and others are part of a farmer incubator, all known as the Rio Grande Farm Park. In addition to her work in food access and security, Liza has also worked on a mentoring program for asset-challenged youth that inspired her to become a licensed foster care home, specializing in hard-to-place teenagers.

Read about the [Dr. Virgilio Licona Community Health Leadership award program](#) and [visit our website](#) to learn more about Liza's lifelong commitment to social justice and health equity.

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## Foundation Opposes Citizenship Question for U.S. Census 2020

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# United States Census 2020

Earlier this month, the Foundation [submitted a letter](#) to the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Census Bureau to voice our opposition to [proposed changes to the U.S. Census](#). Of particular concern is the proposed addition of a citizenship question to the 2020 questionnaire, which the Foundation strongly believes will weaken data integrity and lead to a significant undercount in the census, particularly of communities of color, immigrant populations and individuals and families experiencing low income.

Many of our community partners rely on accurate census data to track and exhibit advancement in important areas of health. We are concerned that the inclusion of a citizenship question will raise the risk of an unrepresented population count that will subsequently skew future legislative representation and federal funding for Colorado over the next decade. In order to prevent future undercounts of populations with the highest needs and to collect the best possible demographic information across the county, the Foundation, [along with more than 300 other philanthropic organizations](#), urges the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Census Bureau to exclude this question from its 2020 questionnaire.

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## Mark Your Calendar

[Vail Valley Partnership's Nonprofit Learning Series: Meet the Funder - Colorado Health Foundation](#)

Sept. 11, 2018

[Next Grant Application Deadline](#)

Oct. 15, 2018

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