



Progress Report

COLORADO HEALTH FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

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Apply Now for Our Senior Advocacy Messaging Research Officer Position



The Foundation is excited to announce the opportunity for a two-year-term position of Senior Advocacy Messaging Research Officer. This position will manage the creation of a new signature effort to better understand how Coloradans think about health and what shapes their values, perceptions and opinions about policy issues.

Over the course of two years, this position is responsible for developing and launching a long-term strategy for commissioning and disseminating public opinion research that produces actionable insights for effective policy and advocacy. The position provides leadership and guidance for the development of a training and learning agenda that leverages research findings to craft persuasive messaging approaches that are broadly adopted by advocates for health equity.

This officer will work in partnership with Foundation leadership and the policy and communications departments to position the Foundation as a leader in the advocacy field both in Colorado and nationally.

View the job description and [apply online](#).



Apply for Funding Today

Our next grant deadline is tomorrow, Thursday, Feb. 15. Visit our website to learn more about how our open funding opportunities can help make a difference in your community.

[Apply...](#)



Denver Urban Spectrum Award

Congratulations to Monique Johnson, Foundation program officer, for being selected for Denver Urban Spectrum's 2018 African Americans Who Make a Difference!

[Read...](#)



Open Fellowship Opportunity

The Association of Health Care Journalists, with support from several health foundations, is now offering fellowship opportunities to journalists for Health Journalism 2018.

[Apply...](#)

Foundation Opposes Weakening of School Meal Nutrition Standards



At the end of January, the Foundation submitted a letter to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) voicing our strong opposition to a proposed rule that would weaken existing nutrition standards for school meal programs. If enacted, the proposed rule could reduce the amount of whole-grains and increase both sodium and added sugars in meals served through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP). The Foundation believes these proposed changes are not in the best interest of Colorado's students and that they would undermine the hard work Colorado's schools have long been doing to improve their meal programs. Changing school meal nutrition standards would create unnecessary disruption and confusion for schools, and ultimately harm the health of children in the state.

Nearly 400,000 students participate in school meal programs in Colorado, and the Foundation applauds the great strides Colorado's schools have taken to improve the nutritional quality of foods and beverages they serve. We encourage all schools to continue on the path of providing nutritious school meals.

Foundation Applauds Improvements to School-Age Child Care



The Foundation thanks the Colorado State Board of Human Services for its recent effort to make out-of-school care programs for Colorado's children healthier and safer. On Feb. 2, the State Board of Human Services voted to approve important updates to school-age child care rules that protect children's safety and support good nutrition and physical activity. Notable changes include: elimination of sugary drinks; requirements for daily physical activity; elimination of screen time during meals and snacks (except during planned special occasions); and improved practices

for medication storage and administration.

Together, with a group of 10 other advocates for children's health and safety, the Foundation submitted a letter of support to the Colorado Department of Human Services and State Board members to urge them to adopt these rules. The Foundation also sent board members a personal letter reiterating the importance of passing the rules package.

Providers of out-of-school care programs play a vital role in supporting the healthy development of Colorado's children, and the stronger rules will provide assurances that children's social and emotional health, as well as their physical safety and well-being, are being actively supported across the state. Implementation of these rules will positively impact the roughly 80,000 school-age children who participate in some form of licensed school-age program over the course of a year.

Children's Health Insurance Program Funding is Renewed for 10 Years



On Feb. 8, 2018, Congress approved a 10-year funding extension for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), known as Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) in Colorado. Administered by the Colorado Department of

Health Care Policy and Financing, CHP+ is public, low-cost health insurance for children and pregnant women. It is for people who earn too much to qualify for Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid Program), but not enough to pay for private health insurance. Currently, CHP+ covers more than 75,000 kids and nearly 800 pregnant women in the state.

The Department notified CHP+ members that the program will continue and there are no changes to benefits or eligibility criteria. Access more information [here](#) to learn about the benefits of the program.

Supporting Action for Mental Health Dashboard



A new city-wide initiative is underway in Longmont, Colo. to build awareness and capacity for addressing mental health challenges. The City of Longmont's [Supporting Action for Mental Health \(SAM\)](#) is a movement of community groups, organizations, faith communities, residents and local government working together to explore how all local residents can take action to address the community's mental health needs.

To track the initiative's progress, SAM was recently awarded a grant from the Colorado Health Foundation to design, implement and launch [a mental health dashboard](#) in partnership with Boulder County Health Compass. Grant funds will also support activities directly related to the dashboard. Two of the key goals identified by the SAM coalition will be to train 2,000 residents of the Longmont community in Mental Health First Aid and engage 1,500 people in conversations related to mental health.

Mark Your Calendar

[Next Grant Deadlines](#)

Feb. 15, 2018

June 15, 2018

[Colorado Health Symposium](#)

Aug. 1-3, 2018
