



The Progress Report

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In Good Health: New Chapters

Editor's note: "In Good Health" is now featured on the Foundation's website in [our blog](#).



It's a new day, a new year, with many blank pages ahead. As we enter 2017, we continue to write this important story about how health takes shape in Colorado, and already there is much to put on paper.

For us, everything begins and ends with our mission: to improve the health of Coloradans. As the largest foundation in Colorado, we welcomed the new year with a renewed commitment to our mission. We intend to continue advancing opportunities to create lasting change for good health and health equity.

Earlier this month, we launched a [new website](#) and a [new blog](#). These are important vehicles we use to help others understand how we are expanding our views about health. Having new, more powerful communications tools helps us tell our story about how we are making a difference across the state and enables us to use our voice with

even more impact.

The current – and ever-changing – political landscape may produce policy shifts that require our close attention. That means we have to up our game. Yet, it also gives us the opportunity to author important chapters on health coverage and access in the state.

In fact, just yesterday I sent a note about a joint editorial authored by the Foundation, The Colorado Trust and Caring for Colorado. We distributed this editorial to newspapers across the state and to the individuals who engage with our foundations regularly to share where we stand on issues that are essential to the health of Coloradans. The [editorial](#) is about protecting and furthering important gains we've made as a state toward improved access to health care and coverage, but it has an "ask" too. For us, it's critical that our policymakers continue to ask this important question when faced with decisions about the future of health care: "What's best for the people of Colorado?"

As a Foundation, we intend to go beyond asking that single question. We intend to press our policymakers about the questions we've heard from Coloradans across the state and push them to consider what's best for the people they serve:

- How many people will be covered?

- How adequate is that coverage for enabling timely access to services that meet physical, behavioral and oral health care needs?
- Are behavioral health and substance abuse needs adequately addressed, or are they merely an afterthought?
- How affordable is coverage for individuals, families, employers and our government?
- Do the burdens of paying for the costs of coverage and care disproportionately fall on those least able to afford them?
- Are the needs of rural and frontier communities being met?
- What impact might decisions made have on our state's economy, particularly in rural and frontier communities?
- How does it strengthen prevention, population health, health equity and the social determinants of health?

As we fill the blank pages of this year, we will be tireless in our commitment to tackling those challenges head on. Our [2017 policy priorities](#) outline areas where we believe our local, state and federal policymakers have urgent opportunities to advance the health of Coloradans:

- Sustaining and continuing progress on increasing Coloradans' access to affordable physical and behavioral health services
- Ensuring health insurance coverage provides adequate access to physical and behavioral health (including substance abuse) services
- Improving food assistance programs to better serve Coloradans experiencing hunger and food insecurity
- Providing greater supports in K-12 schools for students' physical and behavioral health in both local and state policies
- Developing greater understanding of the potential impact of Colorado's increasing minimum wage on working families, on employers and businesses, and on public programs that provide health coverage, child care assistance, food assistance and other supports for the working poor

I have high hopes that, together, our relentless efforts to achieve health equity and opportunity will become a reality. But it won't be easy. So, hold on tight – we have much work to do in 2017.

In good health,



Karen McNeil-Miller



The Foundation has Moved

We are excited to be moved into our new home at 1780 Pennsylvania St, Denver, CO 80203. Our phone and fax are the same.

[Visit...](#)



Save the Date: Symposium

The 2017 Symposium will take place Aug. 2-4 in Keystone. Follow [@HealthSymposium](#) and stay tuned for more information.

[Learn...](#)



New Foundation Website

The Foundation launched our new website. Check out the site for updated information about open funding opportunities.

[View...](#)

Open Funding Opportunities for Feb. 15 Deadline



The Foundation's next grant application deadline is Feb. 15, 2017. We invite you to visit our new website and view our [funding calendar](#) to learn more about our [open funding opportunities](#), which include:

[Activating Places and Spaces Together](#)

This funding opportunity supports place-specific efforts to get people outdoors and actively engaged in their neighborhoods through activating existing infrastructure in public places.

[Change Capital](#)

This invite-only initiative will support organizations that are interested in exploring and assessing their

business models and capital structures with the Nonprofit Finance Fund to build financial strength and adaptability.

[Creating Healthy Schools](#) - Local Implementation and Local Planning and Assessment

These funding opportunities aim to support local planning, capacity-building, community collaboration efforts and assist strategy execution in specific areas related to healthy schools work.

[Energizing Tween Scenes](#)

The goal of this funding opportunity is to promote and support quality physical activity for tweens by increasing access to tween-focused public spaces.

[Health Insurance Literacy](#)

This initiative is designed to support organizations seeking to improve health insurance literacy by increasing opportunities for individuals to gain information on how to better understand and use health insurance.

[Healthy Living Advocacy - Leadership Development, Long-Term Policy Initiatives and Organizational Capacity Building](#)

These funding opportunities aim to support advocacy leadership development programs; promote or preserve policies that create social, physical and economic environments that promote health; and build capacity of organizations working to promote or preserve those policies.

[Out-of-School Time Physical Activity](#)

This funding opportunity will support organizations to provide quality, structured physical activity in out-of-school time settings.

[Strengthening Primary Care](#)

This initiative, in partnership with Vital Healthcare Capital, aims to increase the number of Coloradans receiving quality primary care services through grant and loan funds for physical and health information technology infrastructure as well as working capital related to expansion or improvements to care delivery.

[WIC Innovation](#)

This invite-only funding opportunity will support local agencies administering the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC) program to implement proven or community-developed practices to improve participation through enrollment and/or retention in the program.

Medicaid Messaging Online Tool Now Available



To mitigate the stigma around Medicaid, a broad coalition of organizations recently launched a new online [Medicaid messaging framework](#) to better communicate the positive benefits of Medicaid.

The new tool, Defending Health First Colorado, showcases Medicaid's overarching value to Colorado's people and economy through a variety of resources including key messages, sample opinion pieces, letters, PSA, web text, graphics and social media. This tool seeks to support [Health First Colorado](#) – Colorado's

Medicaid program – and share this key message: Health First Colorado helps Coloradans, communities and our economy.

The effort, was led by the Colorado Cross Disability Coalition and [several key coalition partners](#) representing health care, health insurance, health advocacy and public institutions, including the Foundation. [View the tool](#) to learn more about how Medicaid helps improve lives and strengthen communities throughout the state. [Join the online conversation](#) using hashtags #MedicaidHelpsColorado and #coleg.

Questions? Please contact [Dustin Moyer](#) for more information.

Foundation Partners with NFF for Unique Funding Opportunity



The Foundation has partnered with the [Nonprofit Finance Fund](#) (NFF) for an invite-only funding opportunity, [Change Capital](#), which is open for the Feb. 15 and June 15 grant deadlines. This funding opportunity will support select organizations interested in exploring and assessing their business models and capital structures to build financial strength and adaptability.

Through our unique partnership with NFF, we are able to provide select organizations with one-on-one consultation to determine the organization's full costs of operation and think critically about how to affect change. Following the consulting period, flexible grant funding will be provided to implement tools and practices identified by NFF that aim to support improvements, growth or other adjustments that impact the efficiency, quality or scope of an organization and its programs or operations.

To be considered for funding, organizations must attend a NFF Financial Leadership Workshop. If your organization is interested in attending an upcoming workshop, please contact [Sara Overby](#), program officer, at 303.953.3634. Learn more about the [Change Capital funding opportunity](#).

Mark Your Calendar

[Next Grant Application Deadline](#)

Feb. 15, 2017

[Colorado Health Symposium](#)

Aug. 2-4, 2017
