



# Progress Report

COLORADO HEALTH FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

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Connect with us



## Make a Difference in Your Community: Apply for Funding Today



We invite you to [visit our website](#) to learn how our [open funding opportunities](#) can help you make a difference in your community. Our next grant application deadline is Feb. 15, 2018. Open funding opportunities include:

- [Activating Places and Spaces Together](#)
- [Capital Infrastructure - Comprehensive Primary Care](#)
- [Capital Infrastructure - Intergenerational Physical Activity](#)
- [Healthy Schools - Local Planning and Implementation](#)
- [Rural Primary Care Workforce Solutions](#)

Ensure you have all of the information you need to apply for a grant by [watching an informational webinar](#) on the application process. For questions about open funding opportunities or the grant application process, please [contact us](#).



**Ballot Measures Report**



**In Good Health Blog**



**Patient Portal Tool**

Want to learn what it takes to navigate a successful ballot measure campaign? Read our new report and watch our video.

[Learn...](#)

Our blog shares what we're learning to ensure that across Colorado each of us can say: "We have all we need to live healthy lives."

[Read...](#)

Our Patient Portal Knowledge Center was developed to provide health clinics with key patient portal resources and tools.

[Visit...](#)

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## Colorado Launches Largest Effort to End Hunger in State History



Hunger is a real and persistent issue for too many Coloradans. In fact, one in six Colorado kids are hungry and one in 10 Colorado seniors lack access to healthy, affordable food. Overall, about one in 10 Coloradans struggle with not always having enough money to buy the food they need.

Last week, a broad collection of organizations and individuals, including the Foundation, launched the largest effort to eradicate hunger in Colorado history. [The Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger](#) outlines a five-year strategy to end hunger for all Coloradans by building on past successes and

employing innovations in current hunger-relief programs.

“The development of the Blueprint by a dedicated group of Coloradans clearly demonstrates that we have the ingenuity and energy to address our own challenges. And hunger is a challenge that puts health out of reach for far too many people. Whether you realize it or not, you know a family that wonders how they will feed their children. You know a senior on a fixed income that struggles with how they will afford health care and food,” states Karen McNeil-Miller, president and CEO of the Colorado Health Foundation. “I hope that in our relentless efforts to achieve health equity, the promise to end hunger in Colorado will become a reality.”

Key elements of the strategy include efforts to maximize enrollment in both the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, which supports people living at or below the poverty line, and the Woman, Infants and Children Food and Nutrition Service, which focuses on mothers and their children under the age of five.

Additionally, the Blueprint calls for boosting participation in Federal Child Nutrition programs, expanding the number of Coloradans who get the food they need through community-based organizations, ensuring that all Coloradans can access affordable, nutritious food in their communities and increasing public understanding that solving hunger is vital to the health and well-being of Coloradans across the state.

Gov. John Hickenlooper concluded the launch by stating, “This is, quite simply, an imperative for our state. To have a single Coloradan – particularly our kids and our seniors – go to bed hungry or

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worry about how they will eat the next day is unacceptable. Letting our kids go hungry. Making our seniors chose between medicine and food. This is not who we are.”

Learn how you can be part of the solution and more about [the Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger](#).

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## Exploring the Health Care Perceptions of Low-income Coloradans



Good health is simply not a reality without adequate and equitable access to primary health care. While we know that health takes shape well beyond the clinic, we understand that the experiences and services provided in the care setting are critical to Coloradans being and staying their healthiest.

To that end, the Foundation partnered with Langer Research Associates in 2016 to conduct a survey to understand the perceptions of low-income Coloradans about the care that is available to them. [Findings from the survey](#) revealed information that demands action. Overall, there is a significant gap in satisfaction with health care between low-income and higher-income Coloradans. Of those who took the survey, 59 percent of people with low income rated their satisfaction as “excellent” or “very good” compared to 71 percent of people with higher income. Additionally, more than half of low-income Coloradans reported skipping health care they probably need, with one in three citing cost as the reason.

The findings also suggest specific strategies that may improve patient experiences and outcomes, such as offering a comprehensive range of services under one roof and using patient-centered approaches such as team-based care and health navigators.

In addition to an executive summary, the Foundation has published four issue briefs detailing survey findings about low-income Coloradans of color; low-income Coloradans in rural areas; the health care services low-income Coloradans value, know about and use; and how the 4 Cs are related to patient satisfaction and engagement. [Read our blog post](#) and access the [issue briefs](#).

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## Connect for Health Colorado Shares 2018 Open Enrollment Numbers



Connect for Health Colorado, the state’s health insurance marketplace, recently reported that more than 165,000 Coloradans selected health care coverage through the state exchange for 2018 by the close of open enrollment on Jan. 12, 2018.

Open enrollment for 2018 coverage began on Nov. 1, 2017. This year, Coloradans were able to shop for private insurance plans through Jan. 12, 2018. However, to ensure coverage began on Jan. 1, 2018, shoppers had to purchase a plan by Dec. 15, 2017.

By the close of this year's open enrollment, Coloradans had selected 165,777 medical insurance plans, an increase of 3 percent over the 160,968 plan selections for the same date in 2017. When the last open enrollment closed on Feb. 3, 2017, the number of plan selections had reached 172,361. Among the 2018 plan selections, 23 percent were by new Connect for Health Colorado customers and 77 percent were renewing customers.

Enrollments remain open through March 1, 2018, for anyone whose 2017 health plan was not offered for 2018. In addition, Coloradans who experience a qualifying life change event, such as marriage, divorce, having a child, losing their employer-sponsored insurance or those moving into Colorado, have 60 days from that event to enroll in 2018 coverage. The next open enrollment period is slated to begin on Nov. 1, 2018.

For more information, visit the [Connect for Health Colorado website](#).

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## Mark Your Calendar

### [Next Grant Application Deadline](#)

Feb. 15, 2018

### [2018 Colorado Health Symposium](#)

Aug. 1-3, 2018

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