



The Progress Report

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In Good Health

Editor's Note: "In Good Health" is a new feature in the Progress Report offering thoughts on health from Foundation President and CEO Karen McNeil-Miller.



Dr. Leana Wen, health commissioner for the city of Baltimore, shared a striking idea in a recent [TEDx talk](#): that public health is the lens through which we can address poverty, discrimination, injustice and violence. Dr. Wen, who is scheduled to speak at our annual [Colorado Health Symposium](#) next month, urged all of us to redefine the role of public health in the 21st century as an urban solution and a critical social justice tool. She remarked, "If the currency of inequality is years of life, then the opposite of poverty is health."

What a notion. At the Colorado Health Foundation, the lens through which we view our mission to improve the health of Coloradans is similar to what Dr. Wen envisioned during her talk. Just 10 months into my role as president and CEO of the Foundation, the lens for which I view health has widened – thanks to hundreds of residents across the state who have shared how they view health on the [#HealthiestCO Statewide Listening Tour](#). After my exhilarating and eye-opening trek across Colorado, one thing I know for certain is that we have much more to do when it comes to understanding how to drive better health in all Colorado communities.

[Read full article...](#)



Congrats, LiveWell Prowers County!

LiveWell Prowers County was named an Impact Award finalist at the Partnership for a Healthier America conference.

[More...](#)



New KaleidosCOPE Video

The Salida Circus is part of a national coalition that uses circus training to work with at-risk youth.

[Watch...](#)



Neighborhood Park Study

A new RAND study shows there are many opportunities to use city parks to boost physical fitness.

[Learn...](#)

Medicaid Expansion Sparks Economic Activity in Colorado



The Foundation earlier this month released a [final analysis](#) that takes a look at the economic and budgetary impacts of Medicaid expansion in the state. This report shows that Medicaid expansion in Colorado is having a significant positive impact on the economy and these trends are expected to continue. To date, Colorado's Medicaid expansion has added 31,074 additional jobs, increased economic activity by \$3.8 billion and raised average annual household earnings by \$643. By fiscal year 2034-35, Medicaid expansion is projected to add 43,018 jobs, increase economic activity by \$8.5 billion and raise average annual household earnings by \$1,033.

The Foundation also published a supplement, "[Behind the Numbers: Medicaid Expansion Drives Real Jobs in Real Colorado Communities](#)," that features three narratives from individuals in the health care sector witnessing firsthand the real impact that Medicaid expansion has in Colorado communities including Grand Junction,

La Junta and Walsenburg. The report, "[Assessing the Economic and Budgetary Impact of Medicaid Expansion in Colorado: FY 2015-16 through FY 2034-35](#)," was commissioned by the Foundation and prepared by the Colorado Futures Center at Colorado State University.

Symposium is Sold Out, Join us Online!



This year's [Colorado Health Symposium](#), "Health is Everyone's Business" is sold out. However, those interested in participating have the opportunity to do so online. [Register now to attend online sessions](#) from July 27-29. All plenary and keynote sessions, as well as the special Wednesday evening conversation, "Spotlight on Substance Abuse in Colorado" will be live streamed and will take questions from the virtual audience. [Read the preliminary agenda now.](#)

Health is everyone's business because when people are healthier, their communities prosper. Over three days, we'll build the will and find the ways to achieve the best for our communities. Whether your focus is good jobs, affordable housing, neighborhood safety, healthy food, quality education or health care, the power to make our communities grow and thrive lies in each of our hands.

Already registered for the live event? Invite your colleagues to watch the [live stream](#). Everyone can view and chat online, while following @HealthSymposium and the event hashtag #16CHS on Twitter. [Register now to receive live stream reminders and updates.](#)

BUILD Health Challenge Turns One



The [BUILD Health Challenge](#) celebrated its one-year anniversary on June 9. BUILD Health supports "bold, upstream, integrated, local and data-driven" (BUILD) community health interventions in low-income, urban neighborhoods throughout the country. By strengthening partnerships between local nonprofit organizations, hospitals, health systems and local health departments, partners and communities are able to improve community health and well-being. Three Colorado communities were awarded planning grants in BUILD Health's first year including:

Aurora: Together Colorado, Children's Hospital Colorado and Tri-County Health Department are focusing to improve the first 1,000 days of children's lives – from pregnancy to a child's second birthday – by increasing access to behavioral health screening and support in three ZIP codes experiencing significant socio-economic disparities.

Colorado Springs: YMCA of Pikes Peak Region, Penrose-St. Francis Health Services and El Paso County Public Health are mobilizing their community by identifying and supporting community leaders to address barriers to services, care and safe environments.

Denver: The Civic Canopy, Denver Health's Community Health Services and Denver Public Health are currently engaging residents in five northeast Denver neighborhoods that face crippling early

childhood adversity to leverage resources and ensure children are thriving by the time they enter school.

Learn more about [BUILD Health](#).

Webinar: Help Promote Health Insurance Literacy in Colorado



Join the Foundation and advocates from across the state in exploring a new online tool to help improve health insurance literacy in Colorado. Learn how shared messaging and educational resources can help all Coloradans to better understand and use health insurance, ultimately assisting them in improving their own health and that of their families.

The webinar, [New Health Insurance Literacy Tool](#), from 11 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, June 28, is being hosted by a collection of organizations interested in joining together to improve health insurance literacy in Colorado. Partners

include Connect for Health Colorado, Colorado Consumer Health Initiative, the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, the Colorado Division of Insurance, the Foundation and many others. [Register today](#). For more information, [contact Keri Jones](#), communications associate at the Foundation.

Mark Your Calendar

[Colorado Health Symposium](#)

July 27-29

[Building Better Health 2016: Roadmap to Health](#)

Oct. 13-14

[Next Grant Application Deadline](#)

Oct. 15

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The Colorado Health Foundation works to make Colorado the healthiest state in the nation by ensuring that all Colorado kids are fit and healthy and that all Coloradans achieve stable, affordable and adequate health coverage to improve their health with support from a network of primary health care and community services.