



# The Progress Report

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## Foundation Launches New Special Projects Grant Program



Last week the Foundation launched a new [Special Projects Program](#) designed to help us better understand and respond to community needs. It is also a way for the Foundation to identify new partners and help us understand how to support solutions over time. The purpose of the program is to fund projects that are not currently funded by the Foundation, are new or build on existing work and support a promising innovation or set the ground work for sustainable collaboration and programs. The program will provide funding for project support or capacity building.

Funded projects must be aligned with one or more of the Foundation's [primary strategies](#). Special Project Program grants will not be awarded for proposals that fit within a [funding opportunity](#). Learn more about the [eligibility criteria and application process](#).



**Funding  
at a  
Glance**



**Imagine  
Colorado  
Winners**



**Live Stream  
Registration  
Available**

The Foundation has several funding opportunities and grant programs open for the June 15 grant application deadline. [Explore...](#)

The winning ImagineCo ideas were announced last week. Congratulations to all the winners and finalists! [View Ideas...](#)

This year's Colorado Health Symposium is now sold out. If you cannot attend in person, watch the live stream online! [Sign up...](#)

## Data Spotlight Shows Mental Health Disparities



Released earlier this month, the [Mental Health Data Spotlight](#) explores mental health challenges for Coloradans across the life span. Though insurance coverage in the state is at a historic high and more residents are enrolled in plans that cover mental health services, we have yet to move the needle on this pressing issue.

- About 5 percent of children under the age of five demonstrate behaviors that indicate they are not flourishing. And nearly one in four middle schoolers and high schoolers report poor mental health.
- Nearly 14 percent of adults report poor mental health, with one in 10 Colorado moms experiencing postpartum depression.
- A total of 7.9 percent of seniors reported poor mental health,

with stark variations by income.

The report also reveals who is and who is not accessing care and why. In 2015, 442,280 Coloradans reported they did not receive needed mental health care. A total of 33.6 percent of lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) Coloradans were disproportionately impacted, compared to 9.5 percent of heterosexual adults. And fewer black (7.3 percent) and Hispanic (8.4 percent) Coloradans are receiving support for mental health concerns compared to white residents.

Join the conversation on Twitter by using the hashtag #COHRC. [Read the full Data Spotlight](#), developed in partnership with the Colorado Health Institute, to learn more.

## Good News about Nutrition Standards



On May 20, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced [new rules governing the nutrition facts panel](#) that appears on packaged foods and beverages. Among the changes included in these rules is a new requirement to list the amount of added sugars and the percentage of the recommended daily maximum for added sugars that amount represents. Until this recent change, nutrition labels have provided largely the same information since 1994. The updated label design also makes calories and serving sizes more prominent with the intention of giving consumers important information to help them make informed decisions about the foods and beverages they include in their diets. In October 2015, the Foundation [submitted a letter supporting the proposed rule and the addition of information about added sugars](#) to the nutrition

facts panel.

On April 25, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) [announced the new rules updating the meal pattern requirements for the Child and Adult Care Food Program](#) (CACFP) to better align with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, as required by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. The CACFP provides reimbursement for meals and snacks served to children and adults in participating child care centers, family child care homes, at-risk afterschool programs, Head Start and outside-school-hours programs, adult day care centers and emergency and homeless shelters. In Colorado alone, more than 2,000 sites participate in the [CACFP](#).

The new USDA rules require programs participating in the CACFP to serve more whole grains, a greater variety of fruit and vegetables and reduces the amount of added sugars and solid fats allowed in a meal. The final rule also creates stronger alignment with existing standards of the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program and the Special Milk Program. The new requirements are rooted in sound nutritional science and are the first major updates to the CACFP nutrition standards since the program's inception in 1968. In April 2015, the Foundation, in conjunction with five statewide partners, [submitted a letter to the USDA supporting these proposed changes](#).

## New Health Insurance Literacy Online Tool to Launch in June



Next month, key partners in Colorado's health coverage community will launch a new online tool designed for health care stakeholders to share clear, complete information about using health insurance to access care, based on monthly themes. These resources, to be hosted on the [CoveredHQ website](#), will help Coloradans better understand and use health insurance, ultimately assisting them to improve their own health and that of their families.

A webinar – and preview of what the new online tool has to offer – is being hosted on Tuesday, June 28 by key partners interested in improving health insurance literacy in the state. Partners include Colorado Consumer Health Initiative, Connect for Health Colorado, the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, the Colorado Division of Insurance, the Foundation and many others. Registration opens on Tuesday, June 7. For more information, contact [Keri Jones](#), communications associate.

## Progress on Nondiscrimination Protections in Health Care

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of Civil Rights issued its final rule on May 13 regarding [nondiscrimination in federal health care programs and activities](#). The provisions included in the final rule will apply to any health program or activity which receives any funding from HHS. This includes hospitals and doctors who accept Medicare or Medicaid; any health program that HHS administers; Medicare, Children's Health Plan and Medicaid programs; and health insurance marketplaces and plans that participate in those marketplaces.

This rule will help advance equity and reduce health disparities by protecting populations that have been most susceptible to discrimination within the health care system. Among the highlights are new protections for gender equity and a prohibition on discrimination in health care on the basis of sex, pregnancy, gender identity and sex stereotyping.

In November 2015, the Foundation [submitted a letter supporting the proposed rule](#) and enhanced civil rights protections in health care settings.

## Mark Your Calendar

[Next Grant Application Deadline](#)

June 15

[Colorado Health Symposium](#)

July 27-29

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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.