



# 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.*



Leaves are falling, there's a chill in the air. For some of you, it's your favorite time of year. No, not only for that pumpkin spice stuff, but rather what you've been working for all year – the big push to make sure Coloradans get – and stay – covered.

At the Foundation, we seek to ensure that all Coloradans achieve stable, affordable and adequate health coverage. This is our goal because we know that health insurance leads to better access to care and better access leads to better health outcomes. Not to mention, having health insurance can help protect you and your family from large and unexpected medical bills.

The Foundation just finished hosting our third [Building Better Health conference](#), where we, along with many partner organizations, provided training to those helping people choose coverage. Every single newly insured individual requires multiple touches before gaining coverage – through messaging, outreach, eligibility and enrollment. The conference was an exciting opportunity to inspire and motivate those working on the front lines on just about every aspect of health insurance coverage: the health coverage application process, how to use the systems, marketplace plan selection and so on.

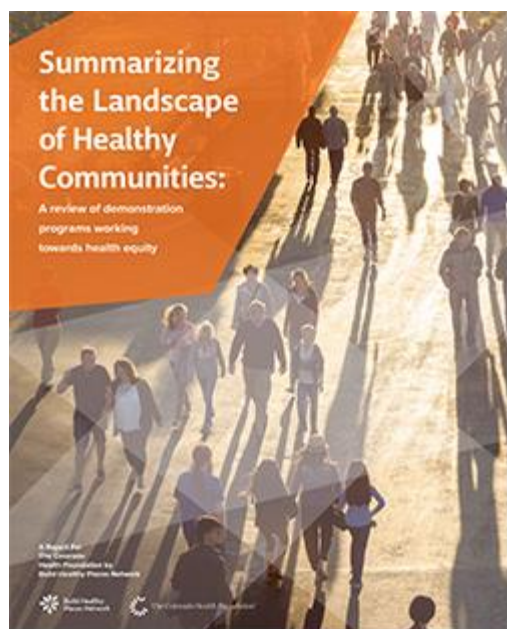
In the past few years, we've made significant gains in the way people choose, use and maintain their coverage. Thanks to many of you, Colorado's overall uninsured rate has dropped to only 6.7 percent. Helping Coloradans keep coverage is incredibly important to making Colorado the healthiest state. And though we've come a long way, there is more work to do. We must remain persistent and unrelenting in our outreach and enrollment efforts. Let's keep Colorado covered!

Open enrollment for 2017 begins Nov. 1 for our state marketplace, [Connect for Health Colorado](#), which marks a busy time of year for many of you working in the health coverage space. A big thanks to all of you and cheers to a successful open enrollment season!



Join the online conversation using hashtag #CoverageIQ. For more information, contact [Keri Jones](#), communications associate.

## Landscape of Healthy Communities: Report Released



Over the past four decades, the healthy communities movement has transformed the way we define and address health. This movement is driven by the disconnect between health spending and health outcomes; growing awareness of the importance of the social determinants of health; and the need to address poverty as means of improving health. Communities across the U.S. are bringing cross-sector partners together to ensure that good health is happening where we live, learn, work and play. This work is reflected in a new report from the [Build Healthy Places Network](#) for the Foundation: [Summarizing the Landscape of Healthy Communities: A review of demonstration programs working towards health equity](#).

How can these types of efforts be replicated and what role do investors-particularly foundations-play in building healthier communities that ensure health equity, equitable opportunities and economic mobility? The new report answers these questions through a review of capacity-building and investment demonstration programs, defined as: local, regional and/or national programs of the past 10 years that connect, guide and support local revitalization efforts involving cross-sector partnerships that address social determinants of health. The report aims to build awareness around mechanisms that currently support healthy community efforts nationwide; highlight the types of resources available for the work; and identify new opportunities to finance and support at the local level. Read the [executive summary](#) or the [full report](#).

## Mathematica Physical Activity Study Released



The Foundation recently released [Promoting Physical Activity among Low-Income Children in Colorado: Family Perspectives on Barriers and Opportunities](#). This study, conducted by Mathematica Policy Research, was designed to better understand the barriers low-income families face when trying to support children's physical activity. In four geographic sites throughout Colorado, the research team conducted interviews with community stakeholders, and focus groups and surveys with parents and children in low-income households to collect information.

This study is an important first step in gathering the views of parents and community members about children's physical activity. The findings suggests that parents understand the importance of physical activity for their children's physical and social development. However, the study also shows many parents face issues with access in their communities and are often overwhelmed by the

challenge of integrating physical activity into their schedule due to limited personal and financial resources. Despite these challenges, many parents in this study are striving to find these opportunities for their children and shared a variety of ideas about how local planners and policymakers could make it easier. Some of the barriers families experienced may be more easily addressed than others are, and programmatic efforts may have the best chance at success when they address the specific needs and preferences of families in that community.

Please contact [Kaye Boeke](#), evaluation officer, with any questions.

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## Foundation Signs Letter about the Importance Health Coverage

The Foundation was one of 20 organizations to [sign a letter](#) to Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing outlining the importance of maintaining coverage for Coloradans currently covered by [Child Health Plan Plus \(CHP+\)](#) in the event that Congress fails to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) next year. Within the letter, the advocates signing on express the importance of maintaining coverage gains by expanding Health First Colorado (Colorado's Medicaid program) up to the current CHP+ income threshold of 260 percent of the Federal Poverty Level for both children and pregnant women.

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## Mark Your Calendar

[Open Enrollment Begins](#)

Nov. 1, 2016

[Next Grant Application Deadline](#)

Feb. 15, 2017

[Colorado Health Symposium](#)

Aug. 2-4, 2017

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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.

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