



# The Progress Report

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## In Good Health

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



I didn't think it was possible, but as I wrap up my first year as president and CEO of the Colorado Health Foundation, I am even more excited than when I first arrived. I'm more excited about the work. I'm more excited at the opportunity to work with you to make positive things happen in the lives and in the health of Coloradans. And I'm more excited about the people.

Oh, the people! I have been so inspired by the people I met on the [#HealthiestCO Statewide Listening Tour](#). The plan was for me to visit the entirety of Colorado to learn about health needs, concerns and assets within communities across the state. The tour was an opportunity for grantees, community residents and local leaders to come together and share their perspectives on health. It was an opportunity for us at the Foundation to listen.

But it became much more than that. It became an opportunity for me to listen to the heartbeat of the state through the voices of its people. Those that came out to meet with me demonstrated a genuine dedication in and commitment to making their communities healthier. Colorado residents I spent time with seemed proud but also realistic in tackling the challenges we face. The good news is that residents are willing to name the issues, which is a key ingredient to our ability to collectively address them. Unique in comparison to other states, Coloradans – with or without health in their titles – are showing up with continued acknowledgement and reinforcement that health is everyone's business. A notion driven by the love of their community and their neighbors. You don't see this just anywhere you go.

The tour left me and the Foundation with much to think about. In order to make the most impact, it's important that we remain focused and strategic in our work, and are responsible in the use of our resources. I am happy to share that the Foundation's Board of Directors agrees that priorities we heard on the tour – such as behavioral health, mental health and substance abuse – should be our priorities too. Stay tuned for future updates on how we plan to engage in this space.

Lastly, at our recent [Health Symposium](#), I shared my excitement to be a part of a broader movement for health improvement in Colorado that is being fueled by many of you. The

Foundation is here to push when necessary, pull if we have to, but we are always here to support the good work of our fellow neighbors to make health everyone's business.

I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish together in the years to come.

In Good Health,



Karen McNeil-Miller



## Building Better Health

The 2016 Building Better Health Conference is around the corner. Register now to attend the annual conference for training and networking in the health coverage space.

[Register...](#)



## Froozer Giveaway

Colorado-based Froozer®, a frozen snack innovator of freshly harvested fruits and vegetables, is hosting a back-to-school giveaway at the Vickers Boys & Girls Clubs.

[Learn more...](#)



## Health Symposium

You can still view archived videos of plenary and keynote sessions, as well as the special Wednesday evening session from "Health is Everyone's Business."

[Watch now...](#)

## Funding Opportunities Now Open



The Foundation's next grant application deadline is Oct. 15. Open funding opportunities include:

**Health Insurance Literacy**: This initiative is designed to support organizations seeking to improve health insurance literacy for all Coloradans by increasing the number of opportunities for individuals to gain information on how to better understand and use health insurance. All proposed projects must directly impact or be conducted in Colorado.

**Primary Care Leadership**: This initiative will fund programs supporting the development of primary care clinician champions who advocate for comprehensive, person-centered care at the practice, community, state or federal level. Nonprofit organizations inside and

outside of Colorado will be considered.

**Strengthening Primary Care**: This initiative aims to increase the number of Coloradans receiving quality primary care services through grant and loan funds to nonprofit and private clinics for physical and health information technology infrastructure and associated operating costs. The Foundation is partnering with Vital Healthcare Capital to provide low-interest loans.

**Telehealth**: This initiative will build capacity in primary care clinics for the implementation of telehealth services, supporting costs associated with the purchase of telehealth equipment and/or the employment of workflow or billing consultants. Private practices may also apply for low interest loans.

**Activating Places and Spaces Together**: This initiative supports locally-defined, place-specific efforts to get people outdoors and actively engaged in their neighborhoods – together. The goal is to help activate existing infrastructure in public places that contributes to a community's overall health through residential usage and positive experiences.

**Creating Healthy Schools**: These initiatives are designed to connect system and local-level efforts to create a sustainable network that fosters health and wellness and provides a thriving environment for kids throughout Colorado. Two funding opportunities are now open: [local planning and assessment](#) and [local implementation](#).

**Healthy Living Advocacy**: These initiatives aim to support advocacy leadership development programs, build capacity of health advocacy organizations and promote or preserve policies that create social, physical and economic environments that promote health.

**Physical Activity Infrastructure**: The goal of this initiative is to provide convenient access to playground equipment for underserved kids in the K-5th grade age group in Colorado and foster community pride and spirit around the community playground.

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***Health Elevations – Last Edition!***



After nearly 10 years of publication, the Foundation released the last print edition of *Health Elevations* this week. Enjoy this edition of [Health Elevations](#), which attempts to map a changing landscape for telehealth across the state. The modern health care system has long promised a revolution in telehealth that would bring convenience, privacy and savings to Colorado consumers. And it's finally here, quietly, putting doctors, psychiatrists and other providers in Colorado living rooms and office cubicles via video. How is Colorado making telehealth work for the consumers and connecting to underserved communities?

We explore [telehealth access and ethics with Colorado veterans](#), [Medicaid officials](#), [homebound heart patients](#), [Native Americans living on reservations](#), [massive private insurance company representatives](#) and [overwhelmed mental health providers](#). Many consumers and providers love the technology, yet putting it in place and linking to the right

providers is not as easy as flipping a switch. [Read more](#).

The way we access and consume information now changes at the speed of light. Sharing quality stories about health in Colorado is still pivotal – if not more important than ever – to how we communicate as a Foundation. However, we are shifting efforts toward a more timely and accessible full-time outlet – a new website, along with a new organizational blog (being launched next year) – that will give us a space to rapidly respond to critical issues, regularly discuss the how's and why's of our work, the impact of grantee work and, most importantly, what it takes to make health everyone's business in Colorado.

[Sign up](#) to receive email updates from us and to be notified about the launch of our new website and blog.

## Colorado KaleidosCOPE Storytelling Campaign Ending



On Oct. 15, the Foundation's [Colorado KaleidosCOPE](#) storytelling campaign will officially end. After five years and more than 50 contributions, the Foundation is closing one door so we can open another. We're freshening up how we communicate about our work and the difference we make. We've heard from many staff, grantees and partners that you'd like more visual and engaging content, so we're reshaping how to

showcase all of the wonderful stories shared with us through the Colorado KaleidosCOPE online storytelling campaign.

Since Colorado KaleidosCOPE launched in 2011, the Foundation has been fortunate to receive

stories about impact in the state. These stories have helped illustrate the people being served across Colorado, and highlight solutions and challenges to how healthy we are.

All submitted content on the [KaleidosCOPE site](#) can be accessed through the end of the year. Video narratives can also be found on the Foundation's YouTube channel under the playlist, [Colorado KaleidosCOPE](#) and written submissions will be archived on the Foundation's website. All KaleidosCOPE videos and written narratives will also be integrated into the new website. Interested grantees can [submit stories](#) through Oct. 15, 2016. Contact [Carrie Mahan Groce](#), digital communications manager, with any questions.

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## Foundation Staff in the Spotlight



Erica Snow, the Foundation's portfolio director, *Health Care and Health Coverage*, was recently named as a 2016 Terrance Keenan Institute for Emerging Leaders in Health Philanthropy Fellow by Grantmakers In Health. The Terrance Keenan Institute was created to nurture the next generation of health grantmaking leaders and further their professional development. The program fosters relationships among the fellows; connects them with established figures in the field; and reflects key themes from Terrance Keenan's work and writings such as leadership,

innovation, taking risks and the creative deployment of resources available to grantmakers. [Learn more about this year's fellows.](#)



Brenda Sears, program officer, *Healthy Living*, is graduating from the [Chamber Connect Leadership Program](#), an intense, 10-month leadership training experience designed to help participants become more effective, well-rounded and influential leaders in the areas of business, politics and community leadership. The program was started by former Denver Mayor Webb Wellington, who was consistently present throughout the program.

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## Foundation Submits Comments on Revised Food Assistance Work Program Requirements

The Foundation recently [submitted comments](#) in support of the proposed rule changes to allow greater flexibility in serving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) work restraints. The Colorado State Board of Human Services is considering emergency rule changes to align Colorado regulations with federal law for SNAP work registrants. The Foundation submitted a letter of support for the following changes:

1. Exempting the chronically homeless from the three-month time limit for those deemed Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents



2. Redacting the prescription that one needs medical certification of physical or mental unfitness for work
3. Making participation in the Colorado Employment First program voluntary for those with dependents between the ages of 6-13 (individuals with dependents under age 6 are already exempted)

Collectively, these proposed changes will align Colorado regulations with federal law, allow for more practical program implementation and prevent Coloradans from needlessly going hungry.

## Mark Your Calendar

[Building Better Health pre-conference webinar: Where Eligibility Starts: Modified Adjusted Gross Income \(MAGI\)](#)

Sept. 26 from 2:30-3:30 p.m.

[Building Better Health pre-conference webinar: Communications 101: Building Communications into Your Outreach](#)

Oct. 3 from 2:30-3:30 p.m.

[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.

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