

The Progress Report Volume 13

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# Progress Report

COLORADO HEALTH FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Vol. 13, No. 5

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## Make a Difference in Your Community – Apply for Funding by June 15

At the Foundation, we fund impactful work across the state – including promising programs or projects, innovative ideas and policy advocacy – that [reflect our](#)

[cornerstones](#). These three cornerstones are grounded in serving Coloradans who have low income and historically have had less power or privilege, putting the creation of health equity at the center of everything we do, and being informed by the community and those we exist to serve.

We invite you to [visit our website](#) to learn how our available funding can help you make a difference in your community. Our next grant application deadline is June 15, 2019. We encourage you to connect with us before applying to talk through your ideas. If you don't already work with a program officer, please reach out to us by [email](#) or by phone at 303-953-3600, and be sure to note the county you work in and your area of interest.

[View our funding calendar](#) to learn about funding that will be available for our June and October grant deadlines. We hope this information will help you get a head start on engaging in a conversation with our program staff on how your organization's programs or projects may align with our work.



### ***Insights on Strategic Learning***

Kelci Price, our senior director of learning and evaluation, recently co-authored an article on principle-based strategic learning in *The Foundation Review*.

[Read...](#)



### ***The Lamar Loop Opens***

A long-awaited public hiking path opened this month in Lamar, Colorado – six years after the project was envisioned as part of the [Healthy Places initiative](#).

[Read...](#)



## Symposium Unplugged: Innovating for Behavioral Health Care Access

On April 26, the Foundation hosted Symposium Unplugged in Glenwood Springs, which [explored innovative and promising solutions to improve access to behavioral health care](#) in Colorado communities. Key themes throughout the daylong conference centered on forging meaningful partnerships with underrepresented populations, including Native and Latinx Coloradans across the state. Keystone Policy Center's Ernest House Jr., Mesa County Public Health Community Advocate, Crystal Mariscal and One Health Institute's Janina Fariñas highlighted strategies to authentically engage with these communities.

The importance of collaboration and building non-traditional partnerships was also a focus of the day, punctuated by Eagle County Public Health Director, Chris Lindley, who provided context and background on Vail Health's landmark \$60 million multi-year commitment to address the community's behavioral health crisis.

The conference featured Colorado Public Radio's [Vic Vela](#) as the keynote speaker, who shared openly about his experiences living with substance abuse challenges and his recovery journey. Vic recently announced that he is working on the development of a new

podcast with Colorado Public Radio focused on addiction, depression and recovery. The details around the podcast's launch date will be coming soon.

Resources from presenters and our archived livestream of the event can be found [on the Foundation's website](#).



## **NIMAA is Designing the Future of Medical Assistant Training**

The Foundation earlier this month hosted a reception on behalf of the Denver-based [National Institute for Medical Assistant Advancement \(NIMAA\)](#) to celebrate their continued success training medical assistants to address a critical workforce shortage in the nation's safety net clinics.

Launched in 2016 as a partnership between [Salud Family Health Centers](#) and [The Community Health Center, Inc.](#), NIMAA is a nonprofit education institute that prepares medical assistant students to work effectively in today's team-based health care settings.

NIMAA's focus is to create an employment pipeline within the very communities served by their partner clinics. By offering an affordable training program that combines online education with an externship experience in a local community health clinic, NIMAA's goal is to grow a medical assistant workforce able to provide high-quality, culturally-competent care.

A Foundation grantee, NIMAA has grown steadily over the past three years and graduated 48 students from its most recent seven-month medical assistant program in late April, including 30 from Colorado. [Applications for their 2019-2020 program are now open.](#)

During their May 1 reception, the organization premiered a video showcasing its work that highlighted the experience of Rosaely Gonzalez (pictured above), a program graduate who is now working as a medical assistant at Salud Family Health Centers. [Watch the video to learn more about the NIMAA training program.](#)



**[A Look Back at the 2019 Colorado Legislative Session](#)**

The 2019 session of Colorado's General Assembly came to a close on May 3. In all, 598 bills were introduced for debate in a state legislative session that ultimately produced both a new state budget and new state laws. These new policies touch on topics ranging from health care to housing to civil rights – several of which are projected to have a positive, lasting impact on the health of Coloradans. Statewide media outlets have reported stories that recap the most closely watched bills considered during this year's legislative session, including:

[Here Are The Bills That Became Law, And The Ones Left On The Marble Cutting Room Floor](#), *Colorado Public Radio* (4/26)

[Here are the most-lobbied bills in Colorado's 2019 session. The list may surprise you](#), *Colorado Sun* (4/30)

[Colorado Democrats deliver on major changes to health care, education and the environment in dramatic session](#), *Denver Post* (5/3)

[Kindergarten, reading, mental health: What lawmakers did for education in 2019](#), *Chalkbeat* (5/3)

## Mark Your Calendar

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

June 15, 2019

Oct. 15, 2019

Feb. 15, 2020

### [Colorado Health Symposium](#)

July 24-26, 2019

## The Foundation in the News

[Lamar Loop holds ribbon cutting ceremonies](#), *Lamar Ledger* (5/13)

[Fresh lunches only a part of D51 emphasis on wellness](#), *Grand Junction Daily Sentinel* (5/6)

[Mental health services spotlighted at Friday symposium in Glenwood Springs](#), *Post Independent* (4/28)

[El Noreste de Colorado \(incluyendo nuestro valle\) ha sido identificado como el cinturón suicida](#), *KDNK Community Radio* (4/24)

[Morgan Strong growing stronger](#), *Fort Morgan Times* (4/19)

[Thank you from The Community Foundation](#), *Durango Herald* (4/18)

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For more information, please visit us at [www.coloradohealth.org](http://www.coloradohealth.org).

The Colorado Health Foundation is bringing health in reach for all Coloradans by engaging closely with communities across the state through investing, policy advocacy, learning and capacity building.

**Our mailing address is:**

Colorado Health Foundation  
1780 Pennsylvania Street  
Denver, CO 80203

303-953-3600