

The Progress Report Volume 13

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Progress Report

COLORADO HEALTH FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

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**Issue Brief Shares Perspectives of LGBT
Coloradans on Health and Quality of Life**

Our health and quality of life are shaped by many factors – the level of education we gain, the discrimination and bias we face, the money we earn, the neighborhood where we live and much more. Earlier this week, the Foundation released a [new issue brief](#) which shares the perspectives of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Coloradans on matters impacting their health and quality of life – demonstrating many needs go unmet. The data reveals that LGBT Coloradans face unfair and avoidable barriers when it comes to the economy, housing and health care.

- More than four in 10 LGBT Coloradans say they are worse off financially than a year ago.
- Half (50%) of LGBT Coloradans say it's gotten harder to afford food, compared to only 35% of their peers.
- A total of 58% of LGBT Coloradans worry they might lose their home due to an inability to pay monthly rent or a mortgage in the next year, compared to 25% of their peers.
- More than a quarter (27%) of LGBT adults report having poor mental health, compared to 9% of their peers.
- A total of 71% of LGBT Coloradans don't think people are able to get the substance use services they need, compared to 44% of their peers.

The data comes from a survey conducted last year in partnership with the Kaiser Family Foundation that explored the opinions of more than 1,800 Coloradans on important issues connected to health and health equity. [Read more](#) and access our [issue brief](#). Questions? Contact [Keri Jones](#), Foundation communications officer, at 303-953-3695.



Inclusive Leader Award

Foundation President and CEO Karen McNeil-Miller recently received an Inclusive Leaders Award by GlobalMindED, which recognizes leaders in key industries for their innovations and key actions to promote equity.

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Our HEAL Evolution

A new article by Foundation staff on our work in the Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL) space has been published in the Stanford Social Innovation Review.

It's part of a 10-article SSIR collection that explores the latest thinking on HEAL.

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New Initiative to Increase Innovation Among Colorado's Safety Net Providers

To improve the delivery of primary care to underserved Coloradans, a new initiative called the Colorado Innovation Community [launched this week](#) with a co-design session at the Foundation. The two-year, \$3 million peer-learning collaborative is supported by a funding partnership between the Colorado Health Foundation, The Denver Foundation, Rose Community Foundation and Colorado Access.

The first collaborative of its kind dedicated to innovation in Colorado's safety net, the Colorado Innovation Community will be managed by the [Center for Care Innovations \(CCI\)](#), a California-based nonprofit with nearly two decades of experience creating similar safety net innovation communities across the country. Providers selected as founding members of the initiative include the following organizations who collectively help more than 250,000 underserved Coloradans:

- [Clinica Family Health](#)
- [Every Child Pediatrics](#)
- [Jefferson Center for Mental Health](#)
- [Melissa Memorial Hospital](#)
- [Mental Health Center of Denver](#)
- [Solvista Health](#)
- [STRIDE Community Health Center](#)

The Colorado Innovation Community will focus on building a culture of innovation within each organization to more effectively identify, test and evaluate health care innovations with the potential to improve care experiences for Coloradans living on low income. Participating providers will receive grant funding to pilot the adoption of a new technology solution over the course of the two years.

CCI's training program will also explore the application of human-centered design in addressing the most pressing challenges facing communities in the state with the greatest needs.

[Read a press release](#) for more information. Questions? Contact [Ben L. Bynum, M.D.](#),

Colorado Health Foundation portfolio director of program related investments, at 303-953-3673.



Proposed Changes to the Official Poverty Measure Would Negatively Impact Coloradans Living on Low Income

The Foundation recently [submitted a comment letter](#) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) urging them not to move forward with any change to the calculation of the Official Poverty Measure.

OMB is considering alternative indices to adjust the Census Bureau's poverty threshold annually for inflation. While on the surface these proposed changes may appear subtle, the impact would be profound. Over time, it would decrease the number of people who qualify for vital federal health, nutrition and safety net programs.

A [recent analysis](#) by the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities estimates that OMB's proposal would cut Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Medicare and premium tax credits, causing millions of Americans to experience either a complete loss or reduction in benefits.

Enrollments would also decline in other critical programs in which eligibility is based on federal poverty guidelines, such as Head Start, the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Community Health Centers and nutrition programs administered by the Department of Agriculture. For example, significant numbers of low-income households would be pushed out of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), or see their benefits reduced.

The Foundation opposes any policy change that would undo efforts in the state to maximize enrollment and participation of income-eligible Coloradans in critical safety net programs. Shifting the calculation of the OPM to adjust for annual inflation would further destabilize those most in need in our state and across the nation.

Questions? Contact [Alexis Weightman](#), senior public policy officer, at 303-953-3659.

Mark Your Calendar

[Colorado Health Symposium](#)

July 24-26, 2019

[Next Grant Application Deadlines](#)

Oct. 15, 2019

Feb. 15, 2020

June 15, 2020

The Foundation in the News

[School's out, but lunch is still served in Ignacio](#), *The Durango Herald* (6/14)

[Revamping Riverside Park](#), *KKCO 11 News* (6/13)

[Peer coaches offer substance use support in the ER](#), *Colorado Springs Independent*

(6/12)

[Las Animas County receives grant to build adventure park in Trinidad](#), *KOAA News 5* (6/9)

[Northwest Colorado Food Coalition: Food Matters](#), *Steamboat Pilot & Today* (6/2)

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For more information, please visit us at 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.

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