

Policies to Advance Health, Well-being and Equity in 2021

The year 2020 may be in our rear view, but its impacts will last far beyond the page turn of the calendar. There has been much talk of “going back to normal.” At The Colorado Health Foundation, we believe that we can't simply “go back to normal” when that left health and well-being out of reach for many of us.

Policymakers throughout Colorado must work toward a new normal, a better normal, and a more equitable normal. The agenda below provides a roadmap of steps the Colorado General Assembly can take to do just that.

- **Increase state funding** to support administration of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program to support families experiencing hunger.
- Protect funding for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) outreach and enrollment to **ensure Coloradans have access to vital nutrition benefits.**
- **Support and strengthen Colorado's charitable food network systems** through procurement and infrastructure improvements.
- **Support implementation of innovative home delivery models for programs serving people experiencing hunger** – especially in rural and underserved communities.
- **Provide stability to Colorado's renters** by strengthening and expanding tenant protections, including prevention of eviction from late fees.
- Continue to take steps to **ensure that state funds for housing, hunger, mental health and health care support services are accessible to immigrants and their families.**
- **Establish a statewide pathway for broadband adoption** particularly in rural and frontier communities, communities of color, and those living on low incomes.
- **Create and expand reimbursement mechanisms for non-clinical behavioral health support systems,** including peer support specialists.
- **Prioritize investments in early childhood workforce in communities of color** ahead of the universal preschool expansion authorized by voters in Ballot Measure EE.
- Assess how changes to the General Assembly's operating procedures made during the pandemic have impacted **how the public can engage with the legislative process.**
- **Permanently adopt the rule changes** that have made it easier for you to hear from more of your constituents' voices during the legislative process.

