

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 to do just that.

- **Prioritize safely opening childcare and schools**, especially for the youngest learners.
- Partner with trusted organizations and community leaders to **execute a communications campaign that helps the public to have timely and accurate information about how and where they can get vaccinated in your community**.
- **Collect and publicly report demographic data about COVID-19 vaccine uptake in your community** to help those coordinating vaccine distribution in order to understand where gaps in access exist and how they can be addressed.
- **Make local information about COVID-19 and economic relief programs available in Spanish and other languages commonly spoken in your community** on your website and through other means you use to communicate with the public, prioritizing outreach to communities of color.
- **Allocate local resources to implement automated messaging programs for hunger relief programs**, such as those available through the Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger's toolkit for counties, to ensure assistance reaches people in your community.
- **Invest in safe outdoor spaces for people experiencing homelessness** that comply with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for COVID safety and provide pathways to services and stability.
- **Work to keep tenants in their homes** by expanding eviction moratoriums, strengthening eviction legal defense funds, and rent or mortgage relief programs.
- **Ease financial burdens on renters** by eliminating and regulating unnecessary late fees.
- Establish and maintain partnerships with local mental health centers to **increase the public's awareness of their services and help build their capacity to meet behavioral health challenges in your community**.
- **Prioritize public transparency and accountability in the implementation of local law enforcement reforms** required by recent changes to Colorado state law.
- Assess how changes you have made to your local government's operating procedures during the pandemic have impacted **how the public engages with your policymaking processes**.
- **Permanently adopt the rule changes** that have made it easier for you to hear from more of your constituents' voices as your government makes policy decisions.

