



The Colorado Health Foundation

FACT SHEET

Transforming State Governance: Administrative Rulemaking

A government that is genuinely responsive and accountable to Coloradans is not just a cornerstone of a healthy democracy – it is an essential pathway to a future marked by greater health and well-being for everyone in Colorado. Since 2021, The Colorado Health Foundation (CHF) policy team has connected with more than 150 individual, organizational, and governmental actors to synthesize recommendations for strengthening Colorado’s state legislature and administrative rulemaking practices and procedures. This has resulted in three research reports with over 50 specific recommendations, a report on state procurement and grantmaking practices, and countless moments of connection with people inside and outside of government structures who want to see democracy thriving in our state.

These conversations surfaced suggestions from advocacy organizations and policymakers on meaningful opportunities to improve state rulemaking efficiency, transparency and accessibility. Recommendations fall into the following four categories:

Increase consistency across rulemaking entities

In Colorado, rulemaking occurs across a broad range of state boards and commissions. No two processes are the same, and experiences largely depend on the composition and practices of individual boards and state agencies – providing space for flexibility and adaptability, but at the expense of consistency of scheduling, communication, and decision-making between each institution. Suggestions included creating a coordinating body to support public access to rulemaking, increasing consistency between and across rulemaking entities, and strengthening rulemaking standardization through statutory guidance.

Improve operations of rulemaking boards

Colorado's state agency boards include some which are governor-appointed and others that are internal to specific departments. Recommendations for improving the operation of all boards included providing additional training for incoming board members, increasing the independence of boards from their associated agency, standardizing procedures across boards, and considering where different boards could be consolidated for additional clarity for the public.

Increase public trust through governmental accountability

Clarifying, simplifying, and adhering to transparent rules and procedures is a vital mechanism for increasing public engagement and trust throughout the rulemaking process. The research surfaced recommendations to better enforce public meeting law requirements, create more accountability between branches of government, and reform the state procurement and grantmaking system as key actions to build public trust.

Strengthen public engagement and support

Administrative rulemaking is one of the most consequential – and complex – policymaking processes in Colorado, making it vitally important to support community engagement throughout the process. Suggestions included consistently providing translation services during rulemaking, offering training and consistent outreach to the public, and improving community engagement throughout the process.

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Full summary reports and description of methodology are available at: <https://coloradohealth.org/studies-reports>.



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