



Overall Objective⁶

Build momentum around collaborative community-informed solutions to address food insecurity and coordinate existing resources in the sector.

Key Investments	Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger
Total Investment	\$13,606,154
Defining Characteristic	Served as a bridge across all three FAS objectives, supporting policy wins, amplifying community voice, and strengthening statewide coordination.

CHF invested in the Blueprint as a community-led initiative from its inception, supporting its evolution from a strategically coordinated program to a trusted, community-owned convener grounded in equity and lived experience. By 2024, the Blueprint became a key vehicle for relationship building, strategy alignment, and policy influence across Colorado’s anti-hunger field.

Evolution


- CHF played a foundational role in both conceptualizing and resourcing the Blueprint, investing in the creation of a Program Office, and enabling the Blueprint’s transformation from a five-year plan into a robust, community-driven statewide network.
- At the outset, CHF believed that a centralized, multi-sector initiative could help overcome fragmentation in the food access landscape and drive policy and systems change more effectively.
- Recognizing the power dynamics inherent in philanthropy, CHF made a strategic shift in 2021 to further step back from visible roles in Blueprint workgroups and lean in to a quieter, more supportive partnership with the Program Office.

Blueprint Outcomes

CHF’s sustained investment in the Blueprint created the conditions for meaningful statewide coordination, policy advancement, and capacity building across Colorado’s anti-hunger field.

- **CHF investments opened the door for Blueprint impact:** The Blueprint’s impact included field alignment & community leadership, policy & systems change, equity-driven funding & emergency response, and public awareness & narrative shift.
- **Built state-level infrastructure:** Through its emphasis on collective impact, collaboration, and movement building, the Blueprint has brought new infrastructure and coordination, including relationship and trust building, to a previously fragmented landscape.

⁶ For more information on the evolution, outcomes, and lessons learned, refer to the [Overall Objective](#) section in the Addendum.

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- **Evolving collaboration for systems change:** CHF's investments in the Blueprint played a critical role in strengthening state-level collaboration across the anti-hunger field, yet this progress is still in process.
 - **Cost of concentrated support:** CHF's deep resourcing of the Blueprint, while well-intentioned, created a perception of codependency and raised concerns about equity in funding distribution. Community partners expressed frustration that funding was largely channeled through a single initiative, rather than being more openly available for diverse, community-driven approaches.

Lessons Learned

CHF's strategy to support the Blueprint as a central piece of Colorado's food systems infrastructure surfaced a set of promising approaches, and persistent tensions, around how to build and sustain field leadership.

- **Power and promise of a Program Office:** The Blueprint's Program Office structure allowed it to function as a trusted backbone organization, facilitating collaboration, holding space for diverse perspectives, and advancing systems change without competing for the same resources or visibility as other partners.
- **Adaptive and supportive approach to field leadership:** By prioritizing flexibility, long-term support, and trust in the Program Office, CHF enabled the Blueprint to shape its own identity, align its work with deeply held values, and evolve decision-making authority over time.
- **Barriers to authentic collaboration:** While the Blueprint made significant strides in strengthening collaboration across Colorado's anti-hunger field, persistent challenges limited the depth and effectiveness of collaboration. This included: (1) relational tensions limited trust and progress; (2) lack of shared vision fragmented the field; (3) difficult conversations were often avoided; and (4) funding models discouraged collaboration.
- **Uncertain future of field infrastructure:** Building capacity without a durable funding strategy risks losing the progress made, potentially reverting the field to pre-investment levels of coordination and effectiveness.
- **Areas of improvement** included:
 - Address urban-centric limitations
 - Balance staffing with community investment
 - Ensure deeper local integration
 - Leverage influence to unlock new resources
 - Interrogate power dynamics and funding reliance