



A Roadmap to Reimagining State Procurement and Grantmaking

Analysis from The State of Procurement and Grantmaking in Colorado Report

Public policy plays a critical role in shaping the lives of individuals and communities. It influences the opportunities, resources and tools available to Coloradans to be healthy where they live and have a voice in the decisions that impact them. One consequential example of this is how Colorado's state government allocates financial resources through its procurement and grantmaking processes.

The Colorado Health Foundation recently partnered with Harvard Kennedy School's Government Performance Lab to produce The State of Procurement and Grantmaking in Colorado report. Informed by interviews with individuals who have experience engaging with state procurement and grantmaking, the report identifies key challenges of this consequential government process and offers a solutions roadmap for more equitable social service delivery in our state.

The Colorado Health Foundation (CHF) is the state's largest private statewide philanthropic organization that champions the overall health and well-being of every Coloradan. We are a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that advances our mission to improve the health of Coloradans through community engagement, grantmaking, public policy, research and private sector investments.

What is state procurement and grantmaking?

Procurement and grantmaking is how funding flows from governments into communities, including how governments establish contracts to purchase goods and services to support government functions, as well as how public resources are allocated to nonprofit organizations in the form of grants. These processes can act as facilitators or barriers to the fair distribution of these resources. It is important to the well-being of Colorado communities to establish and maintain procurement and grantmaking practices that are clear, understandable and accessible.

Why is state procurement and grantmaking important?

Procurement and grantmaking determines whether or not individuals and communities have access to the funding and the resources they need to be healthy and to thrive. Communities of color and rural communities experience the greatest barriers to accessing this consequential government processes, which creates inequities in which areas and populations in our state receive important government funding.

Current challenges

Individuals identified the following factors that posed challenges for engaging with the procurement and grantmaking process:

1

Processes and Procedures

- Long timelines lead to delays in payment for services provided
- Cumbersome and unnecessary insurance requirements
- Onerous reporting requirements once contract/grant begins

2

Decentralized System

- Hard to find grant/contract opportunities
- High staff turnover at departments
- Varied agency standards

3

Provider Outreach and Inclusion

- State departments' incomplete understanding of landscape
- Inconsistent relationships between communities and state staff
- Lack of capacity in both communities and state departments

Solutions that could address these challenges

Individuals proposed these changes to make state procurement and grantmaking processes more transparent and accessible:

1

Enhanced Engagement with Communities

- Conduct surveys to gather information on organizations interested in applying for funding
- Include community voice in grantmaking to ensure programs and funding match community needs
- Build organizational capacity to facilitate engagement in procurement and grantmaking process

2

Develop/Test Promising Reforms

- Expedite payment and reduce payment timelines for services provided
- Right-size insurance requirements to only include necessary coverage
- Simplify reporting on program goals and streamline all paperwork

3

Engage Coordination Networks

- Develop a statewide database of organizations/businesses across Colorado
- Create a centralized contracts/grants opportunity list to make it easier to identify opportunities
- Spread promising practices to other state departments

If you are interested in learning more about how Colorado state procurement and grantmaking could be more accessible for communities across the state, read the [full report](#) or contact Lauren Morales, Policy Officer, at lmorales@coloradohealth.org or 303.953.3614

[READ THE FULL REPORT](#)

