

Recommendations for Colorado's Next Attorney General



The Colorado
Health Foundation™

Who We Are

The Colorado Health Foundation (CHF) is a statewide, nonprofit and nonpartisan philanthropic organization with a mission to improve the health and wellbeing of Coloradans. Through community engagement, research, grantmaking, and private sector investments, the Foundation aims to ensure that everyone in Colorado has what they need to be healthy.

The Foundation is deeply committed to listening to communities across Colorado and to amplifying their voices and interests. We develop nonpartisan educational resources to help Colorado's future leaders cultivate productive working relationships with the communities they serve. The Foundation does not endorse candidates for public office or engage in lobbying activity to support or oppose ballot measures or specific pieces of legislation. However, we do seek to inform policymakers with relevant nonpartisan research, analysis, and factual community context.

Our health is influenced not only by our individual choices but also by the conditions of our neighborhoods and the public policies that govern our lives. We believe all Coloradans should have the tools and opportunities to be healthy where they live and have a voice in the decisions that impact them. Colorado's Attorney General has a critical role in advancing this vision by defending lawful government practices, supporting state governance that is accountable to the people, and using the Office's enforcement and litigation authority to ensure Colorado's laws work for the people in our state.

How the Attorney General Can Support Coloradans' Health

The following recommendations highlight how the Attorney General can help build a Colorado **where everyone belongs, where everyone has a say, and where everyone can thrive**. All recommendations are rooted in years of deep community engagement, statewide listening, and nonpartisan research and analysis (see resource list below).

A Colorado where everyone belongs

Belonging is shaped by whether people can count on the public systems, legal protections, and community infrastructure that make daily life safer, healthier, and more stable. Belonging exists when Coloradans live free from targeted harm or discriminatory treatment and trust that community-based organizations and government institutions respect and affirm their identities. Belonging is not only a personal experience; it is a shared responsibility that requires state leaders to defend the programs, protections, and conditions that signal every Coloradan is valued, included, and able to contribute fully in community life.

ACTIONS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE CAN TAKE TO ENSURE BELONGING

Defend community-based organizations and protect public health systems

- **Support a strong and sustainable nonprofit sector of community-based organizations.** Use the Attorney General's legal authority and public leadership to promote accountable government partnerships, protect charitable organizations from fraud and abuse, and defend them against politically motivated threats from government institutions.
- **Protect public health data, research, and evidence-based decision-making.** Protect Colorado's ability to collect, use, and contribute accurate public data to rigorous policymaking, including litigating against federal actions that threaten research funding, public health surveillance, or data collection and public access needed to inform decision-making both inside and outside of government.

Protect communities experiencing discrimination and targeted harms to ensure everyone in Colorado feels safety and belonging

- **Shield Colorado communities from unlawful government overreach and targeted harm.** Use the Office's defensive litigation, civil rights enforcement, consumer protection, and public integrity tools to protect Coloradans living on low income, Coloradans of color, rural residents, LGBTQ+ people, and immigrants and refugees when unlawful actions from federal, state, or local governments threaten their safety, access to services, or ability to thrive.

A Colorado where everyone has a say

Having a say means Coloradans can understand, trust, and influence the government decisions that shape their lives. Responsive and accountable public institutions are not just a cornerstone of healthy communities; they are essential pathways to greater health and well-being for everyone in Colorado. Yet public trust depends on more than good intentions. It requires clear legal guidance, consistent transparency practices, inclusive opportunities for community participation, strong compliance with open meetings and public records laws, and a fair, accurate, and complete 2030 Census count that ensures every person is represented.

ACTIONS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE CAN TAKE TO ENSURE COLORADANS HAVE A SAY

Strengthen state and local governments' transparency, accessibility, and accountability to the public

- **Use legal guidance to strengthen public access, consistency, and accountability in state government decision-making.** Provide advice to agencies, boards, and commissions to support consistent rulemaking practices, clear public notice, accessible meeting procedures, and stronger compliance with open meetings and public records requirements.
- **Support lawful, community-centered rulemaking.** Encourage state entities and local governments to build accessible engagement practices into rulemaking, including plain-language materials, translation and interpretation, and meaningful opportunities for Coloradans to participate before decisions are finalized.
- **Promote public trust through consistent enforcement of transparency laws.** Use the Attorney General's role as legal advisor and, where appropriate, enforcement partner to help state entities and local governments comply with laws that protect public participation, transparent governance, and accountable administration.

Protect and advance a fair, accurate, and complete 2030 Census count for all people in Colorado, particularly historically undercounted communities

- **Protect the integrity of the 2030 Census.** Use the Attorney General's litigation authority, legal guidance, and public platform to support a fair, accurate, and complete census count. Prioritize efforts that protect census participation, combat misinformation, strengthen public trust, and ensure historically undercounted communities are fully represented. An accurate census is essential for Colorado's representation, federal funding, and the data used to make decisions that affect the health and well-being of communities across the state.

A Colorado where everyone can thrive

Thriving requires more than individual effort; it depends on fair markets, accountable public systems, a strong and accessible safety net, and strong community-serving organizations that help people meet their basic needs and build stable lives. Coloradans are better able to thrive when they are protected from unfair, deceptive, or abusive practices that increase costs or reduce access to what they need to be healthy; when small businesses, nonprofits, and community-based organizations can compete fairly and participate in public opportunities; and when state procurement and grantmaking systems are clear, consistent, and accessible. The Attorney General's office can strengthen these conditions through enforcement, litigation, settlement tools, legal guidance, and public leadership that protect consumers, promote economic security, defend access to essential benefits and services, and help nonprofits and small businesses serve their communities effectively.

ACTIONS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE CAN TAKE TO HELP COLORADANS THRIVE

Use enforcement, litigation, and settlement tools to protect consumers, support economic security, and advance fair practices that help communities, nonprofits, and small businesses succeed

- **Prioritize enforcement that protects Coloradans from unfair, deceptive, or abusive practices that affect health and economic security.** Use the Office's consumer protection, antitrust, and related enforcement tools to address practices that increase costs, reduce access, or undermine trust in healthcare, housing, financial services, and other essential markets. In successful litigation, structure settlements to equitably repair harm and strengthen services specifically within communities most affected by these practices.
- **Protect fair competition and market access for small businesses and communities.** Use antitrust and consumer protection authority to address unfair practices that limit competition, raise costs, or create barriers for small businesses, nonprofits, and community-serving organizations.
- **Support clear, consistent legal guidance for state procurement and grantmaking.** Advise state agencies on lawful approaches to government contracting and grantmaking that reduce unnecessary administrative burdens, improve transparency, and support fair access to funding opportunities for community-based organizations and small businesses.
- **Adopt inclusive grantmaking and grant administration practices in programs administered by the Office.** Use direct grantmaking authority, settlement-funded programs, and other Office-administered funding opportunities to engage community-based organizations early, simplify application and reporting requirements, provide clear and accessible guidance, and reduce administrative burdens that can prevent smaller, rural, and community-led organizations from competing for and successfully managing public funds.

Defend and strengthen safety net programs that provide essential services

- **Defend funding and access to safety net services.** Use the Office's litigation, enforcement, and advisory authority to protect lawful access to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and other public programs that function as core components of Colorado's safety net, supporting access to healthcare, food security, and housing stability when federal, state, or local actions threaten eligible Coloradans' ability to receive services.
- **Protect the integrity of Medicaid and other public programs.** Continue robust investigation and prosecution of Medicaid fraud and abuse while ensuring enforcement preserves resources for people who receive healthcare coverage through the program.

Additional Resources

- [Educational Resources for Candidates Seeking Public Office in Colorado](#)
- [The Colorado Health Foundation Policy Agenda: Transforming State Governance](#)
- [Report: The State of Procurement and Grantmaking in Colorado](#)
- [Pulse: The Colorado Health Foundation Poll](#)
- [Local Ballot Measure Tracker](#)
- [The Good Neighbor Guide Toolkit](#)
- [Housing on the Ballot](#)
- [Coming Together Across Differences: Messaging Recommendations](#)
- [Pride and the Power of Belonging](#)