



THE PROGRESS REPORT

The Colorado Health Foundation's newsletter provides updates highlighting programs, policy issues and events related to our mission to improve the health of Coloradans.

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In Good Health: Proud of Rural Health

Editor's note: "In Good Health" is now featured on the Foundation's website in [our blog](#).



Rural communities run on pride and social cohesion. There are many reasons why rural communities are great places to live: they are often home to resilient and committed residents who provide innovative and creative solutions to the challenges they face. However, they are also places with some of the most challenging access to care issues. Good access to care is the lifeline we all need, and when it's not accessible or affordable, it becomes hazardous to our health.

I grew up in rural North Carolina. When we needed to go to a doctor, my parents couldn't necessarily get off work to take us. And to top it off, there were only a couple of doctors in the county, and only one — Dr. Lane — took patients who were black.

Like so many rural areas, the people who lived and worked in my hometown rallied and relied on each other. Dr. Lane would see us in his home in the evenings and on weekends. People in my community like Dr. Lane saw the inequity and challenges of people trying to make a good living. He and others adjusted to fit their neighbors' lives instead of the other way around. Looking back, I see how unbelievably lucky we were.

I worry that the same issue of access to care is still today such a prevalent and serious barrier to health, particularly in Colorado. According to the [Colorado Health Report Card Data Spotlight](#), we as a state are more than 70 percent rural in geography. Generally, in rural areas, residents face a lack of available providers of all types, including physicians, nurses, pharmacists, etc. While some rural communities may have a local clinician or two, there often are not enough providers to serve the physical, behavioral and oral health needs of the entire area.

The bottom line is that the state of Colorado's health won't improve unless rural communities are healthy. We have to pay attention to our rural communities and how rural residents are able to receive care. I am encouraged that a major theme of bipartisan discussion in the 2017 state legislative session was about rural communities and the sustainability of the core institutions and infrastructure they need to thrive. Both sides of the aisle considered the unique experiences of rural Coloradans and focused on important questions of how we can do better as a state in supporting our rural communities and the families who live there.

As a Colorado resident now, my desire is to walk into any rural or frontier Colorado town and hear residents exude pride about being a healthy community. Not only are lawmakers acting, but we at the Foundation are committed to boosting rural health in every corner of the state. We have to bring the resources and a determination to address inequities between urban and rural Colorado. We are determined to help communities with a population of 2,000 just as we do communities of 200,000.

The Foundation is working toward contributing our resources — along with our insights and a listening ear — to rural Colorado. We will work with communities using their expertise to strengthen the health of Coloradans. All Colorado communities should be known for — and have pride for — improving health and giving every resident the opportunity to live their healthiest lives.

In good health,



Karen McNeil-Miller



Who We Are

As the Colorado Health Foundation evolves, we want to remind you who we are, how we advance our mission and achieve impact through engaging in Colorado communities.

[Learn more...](#)



Let's Talk

May is Mental Health Month and there is no better time to shine a light on the power of conversation. Let's Talk Colorado is a campaign to reduce the stigma around mental illness.

[Engage...](#)



10.10.10

This June, a group of 10 prospective CEOs, successful entrepreneurs from across the U.S., will come together to face a monumental challenge: to confront and tackle 10 wicked problems in health.

[Attend...](#)

New Funding Opportunities



Based on feedback from communities across the state and in response to emerging needs, we recently announced three new funding opportunities that are open for our June 15 grant application deadline.

[Advancing Behavioral Health](#): Access to quality, affordable and convenient behavioral health care was one of the most prominent themes heard throughout the state on the [#HealthiestCO Statewide Listening Tour](#). In response, we are opening a one-time, responsive funding opportunity that is designed to meet the pressing needs of today and inform our work going forward. [Apply now](#).

[Healthy Places: Designing an Active Colorado](#): Four Colorado communities will be selected to participate in the Healthy Places: Designing an Active Colorado initiative. Through a community-led approach, Healthy Places will support communities to build upon their current assets and identify new possibilities to increase physical activity through changes to the built environment. [Apply now](#).

[Supporting Immigrant and Refugee Communities](#): Colorado's immigrant and refugee populations are integral to the health of our state, yet these communities face unique needs and challenges. This one-time funding opportunity will support up to 20 organizations addressing the immediate and emerging needs of Colorado's immigrant and refugee communities. [Apply now](#).

June 15 Grant Application Deadline and Applicant Information



Our next grant application deadline is June 15. We invite you to visit our website to learn more about our [open funding opportunities](#), which are organized by [focus area](#).

If you have questions about our open funding opportunities or need help with the [grant application process](#), we have informational webinars and resources to help: [View our archived webinars](#), which are hosted by the Foundation's program officers and staff. You'll find an applicant information session that provides information for any

funding opportunity, as well as several webinars that dive into specific funding opportunities. As always, [contact us](#) with any questions about [open funding opportunities](#) or the [grant application process](#).

Register Now! Colorado Health Symposium Registration Open



[Register now](#) to attend the 2017 Colorado Health Symposium, held Aug. 2–4 in Keystone. View speakers and a [draft agenda](#).

This year's theme is "Let's Talk About... Inequity." We believe health equity is an enduring state where all individuals have the opportunity to be healthy regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, socioeconomic status, ZIP code or other social conditions.

While inequity is not a new or emerging challenge, we cannot begin to tackle it without getting it on the collective table we all share. The goal of this year's Symposium is to have a bold and civil conversation about inequity — to dig in and talk about it so we can understand what's holding us back from bringing health in reach for all Coloradans. What ideas could we ignite to solve for patterns, policies and systems that best serve the needs of our communities?

We invite you to [be a part of the conversation](#).

Job Opportunities at the Foundation



We currently have two open positions – come join our team!

[Executive assistant](#): This exciting opportunity provides support to the vice president of Philanthropy and the Philanthropy leadership team. The main job responsibilities include: maintaining multiple complex schedules; planning and scheduling a high volume of meetings; and handling official and confidential correspondence. This position closes on Friday, May 26. [Apply now](#).

[Senior program officer](#) : This position provides leadership and oversight for on-the-ground execution of the Foundation's strategy. Qualified candidates will have proven expertise in establishing and nurturing relationships with strategic partners. They will have a broad and deep understanding of the field of health, precursors to health (i.e., social determinants such as poverty and affordable housing) and health philanthropy. The ideal candidate leads, develops and implements programs successfully and is known for this success across communities. Candidates should excel at communicating across constituencies, work well in ambiguity

and proactively identify opportunities to advance the Foundation's mission while remaining grounded in the day-to-day execution of tasks and responsibilities. [Apply now](#).

Mark Your Calendar

[Colorado Primary Care Collaborative Convening](#)

June 8

[Next Grant Application Deadline](#)

June 15

[Colorado Health Symposium](#)

Aug. 2-4
