



2019 Colorado Health Symposium Addresses Housing Inequity and its Role with Health

This year's [Colorado Health Symposium](#) brought together more than 500 attendees from across the housing services spectrum, grassroots organizations, housing developers, nonprofit leaders, public health professionals and others

passionate about advancing equity and housing justice. From the main stage, Health Affairs' Alan Weil set the tone for the conference with an unrelenting truth: "Where you are from—where you are rooted—has significant consequences on the trajectory of your life."

We kicked off the conference on day one exploring the relationship between housing and health, examining the historical and systemic inequities that disproportionately impact communities of color and other marginalized groups. On day two, the conference centered on how stable, healthy and affordable housing is vital to all communities, digging deep into current challenges and innovative housing solutions. The final day of the conference focused on cross-sector collaboration and highlighted how transformative leadership can lead to equitable housing opportunities for all.

Symposium resources and presentation materials corresponding to each day of this year's Symposium can help advance equitable housing solutions in the community you work. They can now be found on [our website](#), along with [archived videos](#) of Symposium plenary and keynote sessions. You can also view "[Explained: The Racial Wealth Gap](#)," which was [followed by a fireside chat](#) between our President and CEO Karen McNeil-Miller and Vox's Matt Yglesias.

Be sure to save the date for next year's Symposium, taking place July 29-31, 2020 in Keystone Colorado. Questions about the Symposium? [Email us](#).



Participate in the Race to Lead Survey 2019

The Race to Lead Survey, an initiative of the Building Movement Project, aims to address the racial leadership gap across the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors. The survey is confidential and is open to all working in the U.S. nonprofit sector.

[Complete the survey...](#)



Veronica Crespín-Palmer's Local TED Talk

RISE Colorado Co-Founder and CEO [Veronica Crespín-Palmer](#) presented a powerful talk at [TedxMileHigh](#) on "How families will transform our broken school system." In this talk, she delves into supporting educational equity.

[Watch...](#)



Beka Warren Receives 2019 Dr. Licona Award for Championing Health Equity

At this year's Symposium, the Foundation announced Rebecca "Beka" Warren as the winner of the 2019 [Dr. Virgilio Licona Community Health Leadership Award](#). This annual award program seeks to recognize Coloradans who are finding innovative and effective strategies to overcoming community health barriers across the state.

Through the span of her career, Beka has worked tirelessly to advance health and health equity for the people of Northwestern Colorado through advocating for high-quality health and well-being. She has served in a variety of impactful roles through the span of her career beginning as a registered nurse at Valley View Hospital. She has since held positions as the vice president of quality at Memorial Regional Health, deputy coroner for Moffat County and technician for the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Bank, among others. Most recently, she served as the executive director of Open Heart Advocates, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting high-need individuals and families who've experienced sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, teen dating violence, human trafficking and other forms of trauma or crime.

In receiving the award, Beka shared a reflection on her passion for traveling with her grandchildren, which she thoughtfully approaches by ensuring there are always new skills learned each trip. A memory she holds onto is a recent trip with her four-year-old granddaughter, Kennedy, who taught Beka about the importance of perspective

through photography. Beka closed with a powerful reminder: “As we work with groups of folks—as we work with each other—just remember that all have their own unique perspective. Even children.”

Read about the [Dr. Virgilio Licona Community Health Leadership Award program](#) and [Beka's work](#) to bring health in reach for Northwestern Coloradans. Questions? Contact [Keri Jones](#), communications officer, 303-953-3695.



The Foundation Submits a Letter to HHS Opposing Changes to Nondiscrimination Protections

Earlier this month, the Foundation [submitted a comment letter](#) to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), stating our opposition to proposed changes to section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). When the ACA was drafted nearly a decade ago, vital nondiscrimination protections were written into the law, including services that support our limited English proficient (LEP) and transgender individuals. We wholeheartedly believe that protecting people from discrimination, such as in a health care setting, is about treating others the way we want to be treated.

We need laws and regulations like section 1557 of the ACA that ensure all people are treated fairly and equally. Nearly 400,000 Coloradans require LEP programs to help connect them with critical care and services, and we know

that nearly one in three transgender Coloradans have been denied health care by their provider because of their transgender status.

Proposed changes like these create significant hurdles for many Coloradans to live their healthiest lives, and present a direct threat to achieving health equity in the state. We urge HHS to maintain the robust and guaranteed protections of section 1557 of the ACA as-is. Questions? Contact [Jin Tsuchiya](#), public policy officer, at 303-953-3667.

Mark Your Calendar

[Arts in Society Information Session at the Foundation](#)

Aug. 30, 2019

[Next Grant Application Deadlines](#)

Oct. 15, 2019

Feb. 15, 2020

June 15, 2020

The Foundation in the News

[OutSources: LGBTQ+ Coloradans' Experiences in Economy and Housing](#), *KGNU.org* (8/5)

[Julesburg Elementary School is Ready to Play](#), *Julesburg Advocate* (7/31)

[Health Symposium Highlights Link Between Health and Housing Inequity](#), *KGNU* (7/29)

[Throughout Colorado, housing is a health issue](#), *Aspen Daily News* (7/27)

[Tribal Radio receives grant from Colorado Health Foundation to bring Dream Warriors to Ignacio](#), *KSUT Public Radio* (7/26)

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For more information, please visit us at www.coloradohealth.org.

The Colorado Health Foundation is bringing health in reach for all Coloradans by engaging closely with communities across the state through investing, policy advocacy, learning and capacity building.

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