

COLORING OUTSIDE THE LINES





Letter from the CEO

My daughter and I have a Saturday morning tradition of going out to breakfast at our favorite spot. She orders the same thing every time, but the kids' menu still has utility in that it also presents a scene to color with the accompanying crayons. It's been the same scene for years. At some point in her childhood, she stopped coloring strictly inside the lines and started creating her own designs beyond them.

In each of our lives, there are things that are working and others that need changing. The same goes for how we operate here at Healthier Colorado. We're always looking for places where the status quo needs to be broken in order to advance our mission.

We endeavored beyond the confines of our org chart when we sketched up Open Answer, a new canvassing and community outreach organization who finished their first full year of operation in 2022. Open Answer has already taken on dozens of projects, from connecting communities to solar gardens to engaging in candidate elections. They also teamed up with another organization in our family, Healthy Air & Water Colorado, to conduct community research that informed a first-of-its-kind report on how to mitigate the impacts of extreme heat, especially in low-income communities. Open Answer is now also coloring beyond the state lines of Colorado, venturing into North Carolina and beyond.

While many would think that the wake of the pandemic is the wrong time to design a new office space, it was actually the perfect time to draw people together at Colorado's Health Capitol. From our launch in March of 2021, we have attracted over 40 mission-aligned organizations under one roof in Denver. We are now at capacity and looking for more ways to deliver value for our partners.

Until Healthier Colorado worked to change the law this year, our state's psychologists were unable to prescribe medications that can improve and save lives. Last year, we created a whole new type of licensed oral health professional, called dental therapists, who can deliver affordable care. These are just a couple ways that we traversed the lines of the status quo to alleviate barriers between patients and the care they need.

We also did some erasing. In 2022, we passed a law that seals certain non-violent offenses from public view so that Coloradans with old records have a better chance at a successful, healthy life. Both this year and last, we passed legislation to erase the school-to-prison pipeline by enhancing supports available to kids outside of the criminal justice system.

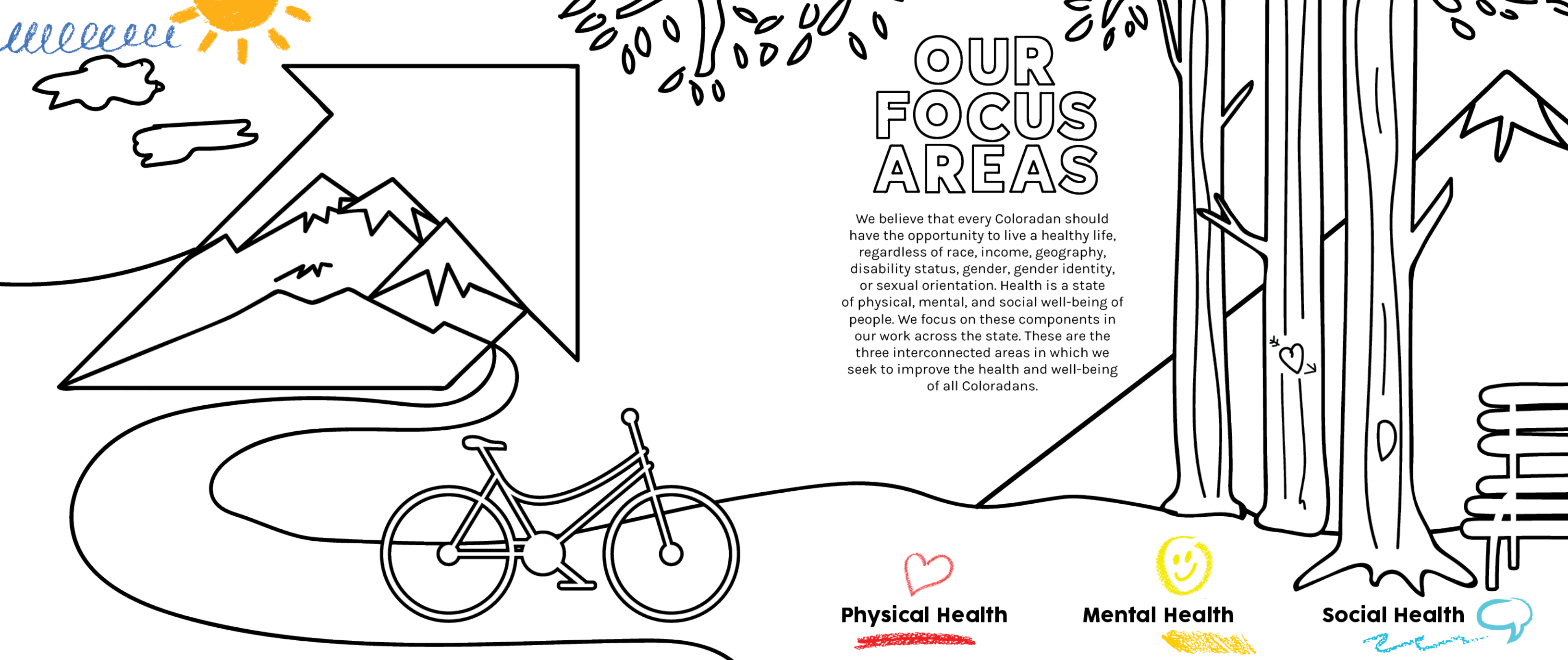
Finally, you'll notice that we drew outside the calendar lines for this annual report. It covers all of 2022 and the first half of 2023, as we wanted to make sure that our updates were timely and relevant. Moving forward, our annual reports will cover the second half of the previous year and the first half of the current year.

I'm bringing this annual report to the next breakfast with my daughter, and I invite you to read and color as you will.

Sincerely,

Jake Williams
CEO, Healthier Colorado





OUR FOCUS AREAS

We believe that every Coloradan should have the opportunity to live a healthy life, regardless of race, income, geography, disability status, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Health is a state of physical, mental, and social well-being of people. We focus on these components in our work across the state. These are the three interconnected areas in which we seek to improve the health and well-being of all Coloradans.

OUR MISSION

Healthier Colorado is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to raising the voices of Coloradans in the public policy process to improve the health of our state's residents. We believe that every Coloradan should have a fair chance at living a healthy life. The people of Colorado are our constituency, and Healthier Colorado aims to make meaningful improvements throughout our state's diverse communities. Our intent is to do more than educate and advocate – we want to drive action, real change, and impact.



Physical Health

Physical health is the well-being of an individual's body. This looks different for every Coloradan, and the ideal physical health for one person may not be the same for another. To maintain physical health, we seek to ensure that everybody has access to quality, affordable health care, as well as the other resources required for physical health, including access to nutritious food, oral health services, and safe spaces for physical activity.



Mental Health

Mental health is the condition of someone's psychological or emotional well-being. An essential part of living a healthy life, mental health affects how we think, feel and act. To positively advance mental health, we seek to ensure that everybody has access to quality, affordable mental health services, such as counseling and treatment for addiction. We also seek to create environments in communities, including in schools, that support mental health.



Social Health

Social health refers to the ability of everybody in a community having an equal opportunity to attain well-being. Factors including racism, income, geography, disability, gender, gender identity and sexual orientation can be barriers to this opportunity. These factors can block access to essential elements of health and wellbeing, including safe and affordable housing, a quality education, legal justice, and access to health care. We seek to break down these barriers in order to give everybody a chance at living a healthy life.

Don't worry about staying in the lines, that's where change happens.



STATEWIDE LEGISLATIVE WORK

When we talk about coloring outside the lines, we truly drew outside of people's comfort zones - always to advance your health and well-being. We were brave enough to try new colors, draw innovative paths forward, and create our own templates to color the solutions that were not always easy, but right. This resulted in huge wins and some "better luck next session." As is the case every year, this would not have been possible without YOU taking this journey with us and also believing that there are always new books to color ... or, better yet ... that it's possible to create your own. These legislative sessions proved that coloring outside the lines is not only right but supported by people across the state. Because of you:

40,600+

Legislators received 40,600+ emails and 6,200+ calls about the policies we spearheaded together,

250

More than 250 people were trained on advocacy, met with their elected officials, and came to the capitol to advocate for health, and

300

The media highlighted the importance of our legislative issues and included stories from advocates in more than 300 pieces.

Sealing Criminal Records SB22-099 ✓

SB22-099, known as the Colorado Clean Slate Act, will automatically seal eligible, past records to help people find meaningful employment, secure safe and stable housing, support themselves and their families, and lead healthy lives.

Regulating Dental Therapy SB22-219 ✓

This bill creates a new mid-level dental professional known as dental therapists. Dental therapists will help expand quality care to more patients, reduce wait times for appointments, and provide treatment in community settings, such as schools or nursing homes.

Use Of Local Lodging Tax Revenue HB22-1117 ✓

Colorado's counties can now invest their local lodging tax and marketing district dollars towards workforce housing, affordable child care, and enhancing visitor experiences. Communities will be able to use this flexible, actionable solution to build back local housing affordability to sustain a vibrant, healthy workforce.

Department Of Early Childhood and Universal Preschool Program HB22-1295 ✓

HB22-1295 establishes a cabinet-level Department of Early Childhood and a universal preschool program to provide a seamless experience for families and expand access to high-quality preschool options for all of Colorado's kids to ensure they have the foundations they need to thrive.

Land Use SB23-213 ✗

Coloradans across the state can't find homes because there are not enough being built, and the available ones are too expensive to rent or buy. This bill would have created a first-of-its-kind statewide housing plan to determine the housing needs across communities and provide localities with the opportunity to build more types of homes that would fit the needs and budgets of diverse families across the state.

Licensed Psychologist Prescriptive Authority HB23-1071 ✓

HB23-1071 streamlines access to live-saving mental health treatments by allowing licensed psychologists who undergo additional and extensive education and training the ability to prescribe and un prescribe psychotropic medications while continuing to address the root causes of mental health conditions through therapeutic interventions.

Reduce Justice-Involvement For Young Children HB23-1249 ✓

This bill follows the evidence and serves kids in a way that reduces the likelihood of recidivism by allowing local Collaborative Management Programs (CMP) to voluntarily serve justice-involved youth and provides the CMP with additional infrastructure and funding to meet the needs of children and families. These are vital steps to preventing youth crime and victimization.

Pathways To Behavioral Healthcare HB23-1153 ✓

Without adequate places in the community with access to supportive services, the local jail or emergency department becomes the default option to get housing and treatment for people with severe and persistent mental illness. This bill authorizes a feasibility study to explore potential pathways for Colorado to assist individuals with serious mental illness with treatment, recovery, and housing to prevent jail or homelessness.

Proposition EE Funding Retention Rate Reduction HB23-1290 ✓

In 2020, voters overwhelmingly approved a new excise tax on nicotine products to fund universal preschool. This bill asks voters to allow the state to keep the revenue collected through the nicotine tax and invest it in greater access to universal preschool.

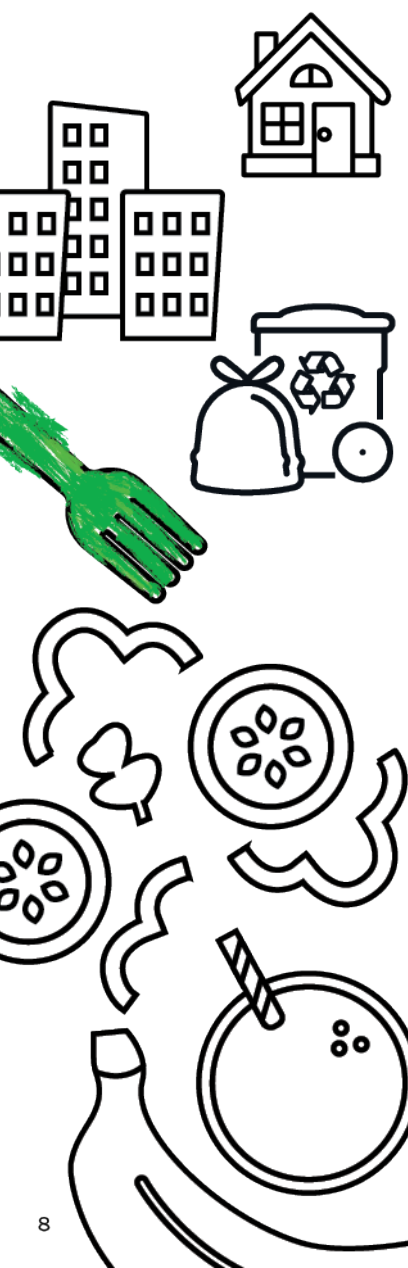
Continuous Eligibility Medical Coverage HB23-1300 ✓

Ensures our youngest kids have access to health care by requiring Colorado's Medicaid department to apply for a federal waiver to extend continuous coverage in Medicaid and CHIP for children from birth until the age of 3 and for individuals leaving carceral settings for 12 months.

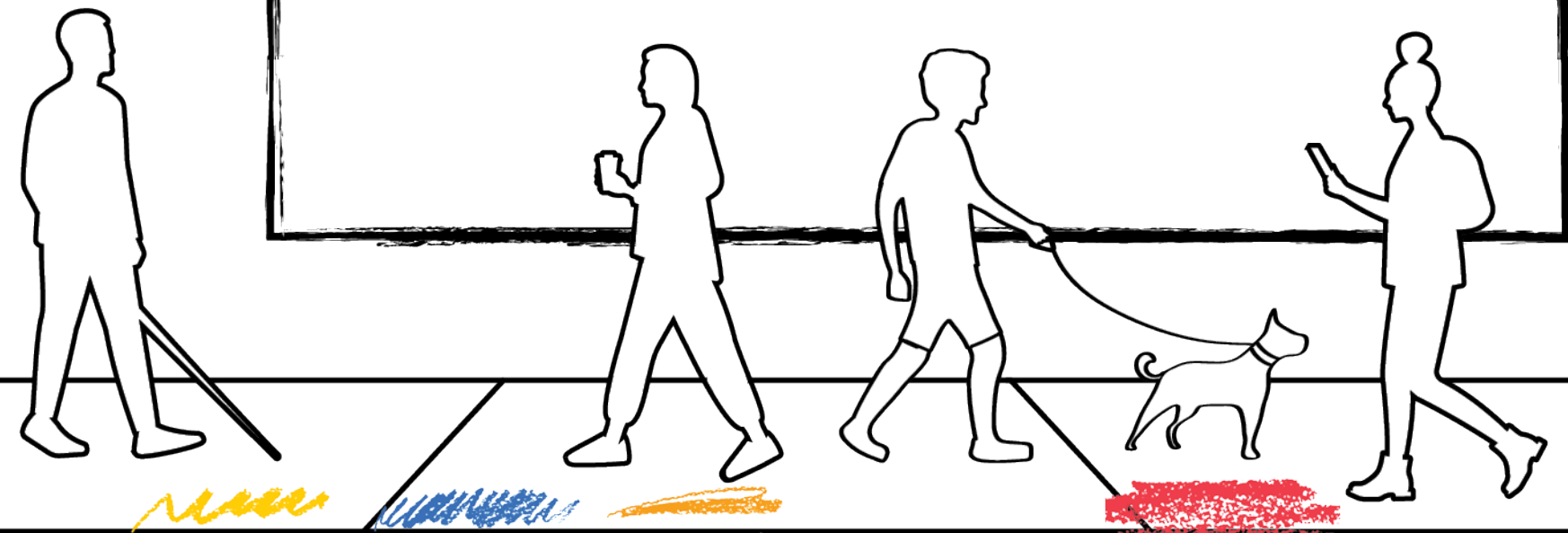
It takes all of us to color the Colorado we want.

PiLA AND STATEWIDE BALLOT INITIATIVES

PiLA (Partnerships in Local Advocacy) is our commitment to local communities. We believe in the power of local solutions and community to solve local problems. And, to us, this means supporting policy changes that come from the communities themselves. PiLA is our way of supporting local campaigns – policy change at the city, county, or special district level. In addition to our local work, we engage in meaningful statewide issues that aim to advance state-level health outcomes. You'll see that both through our PiLA program and work on statewide initiatives, we supported bold, innovative, and outside-the-lines ways that will make our state healthier.

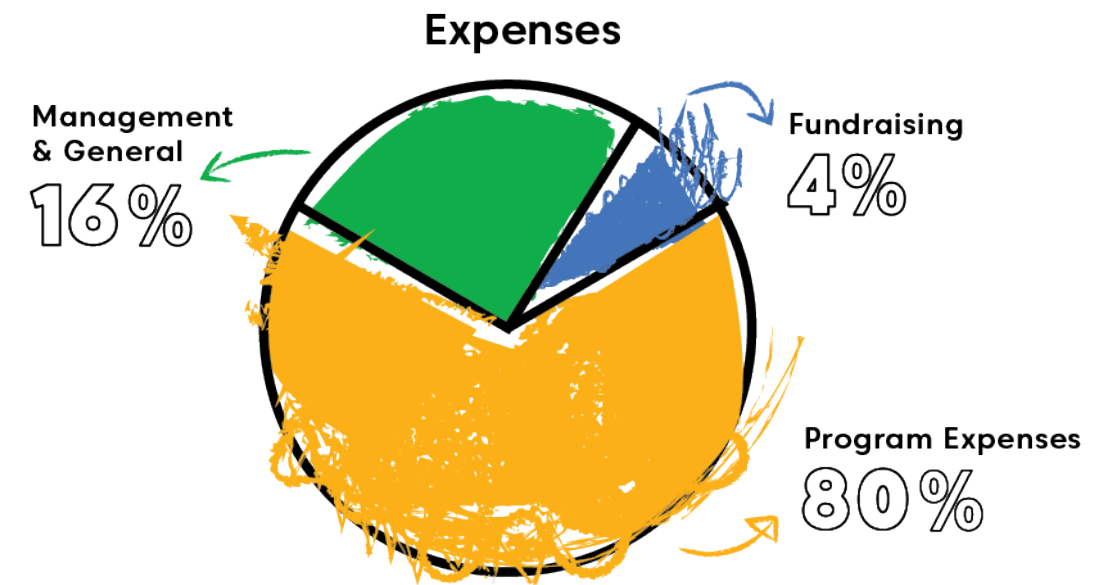


- Steamboat Springs Affordable Housing Ballot Initiative:**
 Voters in Steamboat Springs overwhelmingly voted to add a tax on short-term rentals to generate much-needed revenue to build and maintain affordable housing opportunities for their residents and vital workforce.
- Proposition 123:**
 Coloradans are facing a severe housing shortage and affordability crisis. With this proposition, a first-of-its-kind dedicated amount of state dollars must be allocated to expand housing affordability throughout Colorado.
- Denver Waste No More:**
 Requires all Denver businesses, including apartment buildings, condos, restaurants, hotels, and sporting arenas, and permitted events to provide compost and recycling pick-up services alongside trash services.
- Proposition FF:**
 Ensures that no public school student goes hungry by creating universal eligibility for free school meals.
- Denver Sidewalks:**
 Takes the responsibility to maintain sidewalks out of the hands of Denver homeowners and requires the city to build and maintain safe, accessible sidewalks for everyone.



2022 FINANCIALS

The figures presented below are unaudited as we went to press before the completion of our annual audit.



Revenue	
Donations & Grants	\$ 715,510
Contract Revenue	\$ 387,320
Investment Revenue (Loss)	\$ (448,104)
Total Revenue	\$ 654,726
Expenses	
Program	\$ 2,597,648
Management & General	\$ 521,118
Fundraising	\$ 141,745
Total Expenses	\$ 3,260,511
Change In Net Assets	\$ (2,605,785)



HEALTHY AIR & WATER COLORADO

Healthy Air and Water Colorado Action is Healthier Colorado's sister organization that focuses exclusively on public policy that addresses the growing public health threats posed by climate change. They are another example where coloring outside the lines has paid off in big ways. We know that worsening air quality, rising temperatures and threats to water availability and quality - all products of climate change - have profound impacts on human health, particularly for our most vulnerable community members like those with existing health issues and children. While our Healthier Colorado work focuses on broadly mobilizing grassroots Coloradans, our charge with this project is to engage health care professionals, including frontline health care providers who see and treat the real health issues caused by our changing environment.

STATE LEGISLATIVE WORK

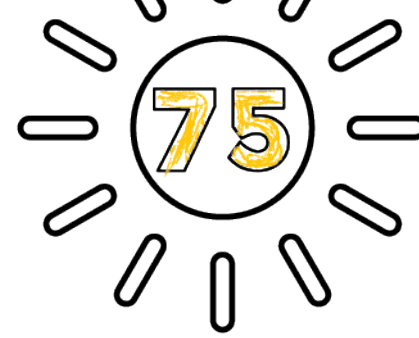
Establishment Of A Wildfire Resiliency Code Board SB23-166 ✓

As climate change increases the severity and frequency of Colorado wildfires, it is more important than ever that we are building our homes and communities to be more fire-resistant. This bipartisan bill creates a statewide "code board" that will establish minimum fire-hardening building standards for new construction and substantially remodeled buildings built in the most wildfire-prone areas of Colorado.

Pollution Protection Measures HB23-1294 ✓

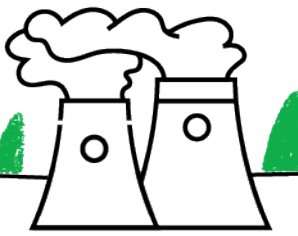
With 75 ozone action alert days for the Denver Metro region during the 2022 ozone season, it is clear that Colorado needs swift, bold solutions to improve air quality. This bill establishes an interim committee to work on identifying solutions to Colorado's ozone crisis. The bill also requires a rulemaking to define "cumulative impacts", which will help ensure that state agencies are considering all environmental factors that are impacting public health when making decisions related to air quality.

Damage from fires over just the last 3 years totals more than **\$2.5 BILLION**



OZONE ACTION ALERT DAYS

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment issued a record-setting 75 ozone action alert days for the Denver Metro region in 2022.



HAWC MEMBER HIGHLIGHT



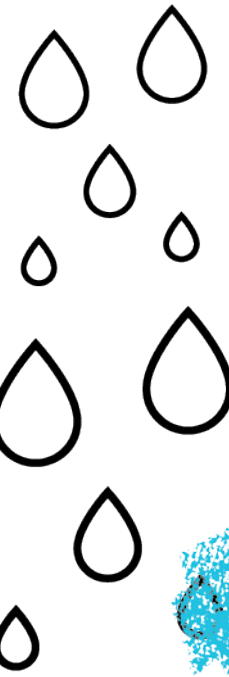
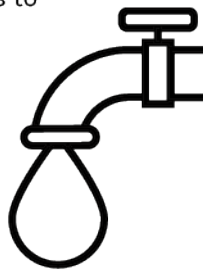
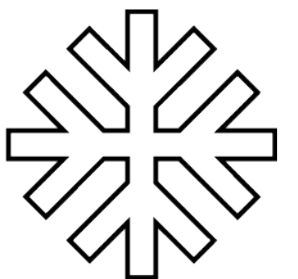
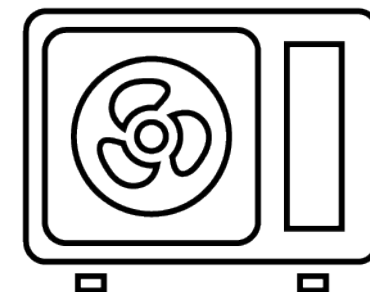
Kathy Reiner, MPH, BSN, RN, AE-C, FNASN is an active nurse advocate for health and environment. She is motivated to advocate with Healthy Air and Water Colorado in order to protect children from the growing impacts of climate change. Colorado school nurses are growing increasingly concerned about the impact of poor air quality, wildfires, and extreme heat on the physical and mental health of students and the inequitable impacts on communities that are disadvantaged. Kathy chooses to lend her voice to the climate action movement because she recognizes the unique role health care professionals contribute to systems change to both mitigate and adapt to climate change. This past year at the state legislature, Kathy provided testimony on key legislation, advocating for climate-smart land use and encouraging legislators to take action to reduce health-harming ground-level ozone.

COMBATING EXTREME HEAT IN THE COMMUNITY.

Nine out of the top 10 hottest summers on record in Denver have occurred since 2000. Denver currently experiences an annual average of 44 days when the temperature is 90 degrees or hotter. Our summers are getting hotter, and our communities are suffering.




HAWC partnered with Open Answer and Tepeyac Community Health Center to conduct an in-person survey of residents in Denver's most vulnerable communities to understand the impacts of increasing heat on their health and hear about their current situations and perspectives on access to cooling and extreme heat. The survey revealed significant inequities in access to quality and efficient cooling, in addition to 70% of residents indicating that better access to cooling would improve their well-being. HAWC will continue to use this report to work with communities to advocate for equitable solutions to extreme heat and to increase access to cooling for those with the least access, like communities of color and renters.





OPEN ANSWER

Open Answer is Healthier Colorado's sister organization that bridges campaigns, candidates, and organizations with the communities they wish to engage. They do this through a series of tactics, ranging from face-to-face fundraising to door-to-door Get Out The Vote (GOTV) efforts, and everything in between.



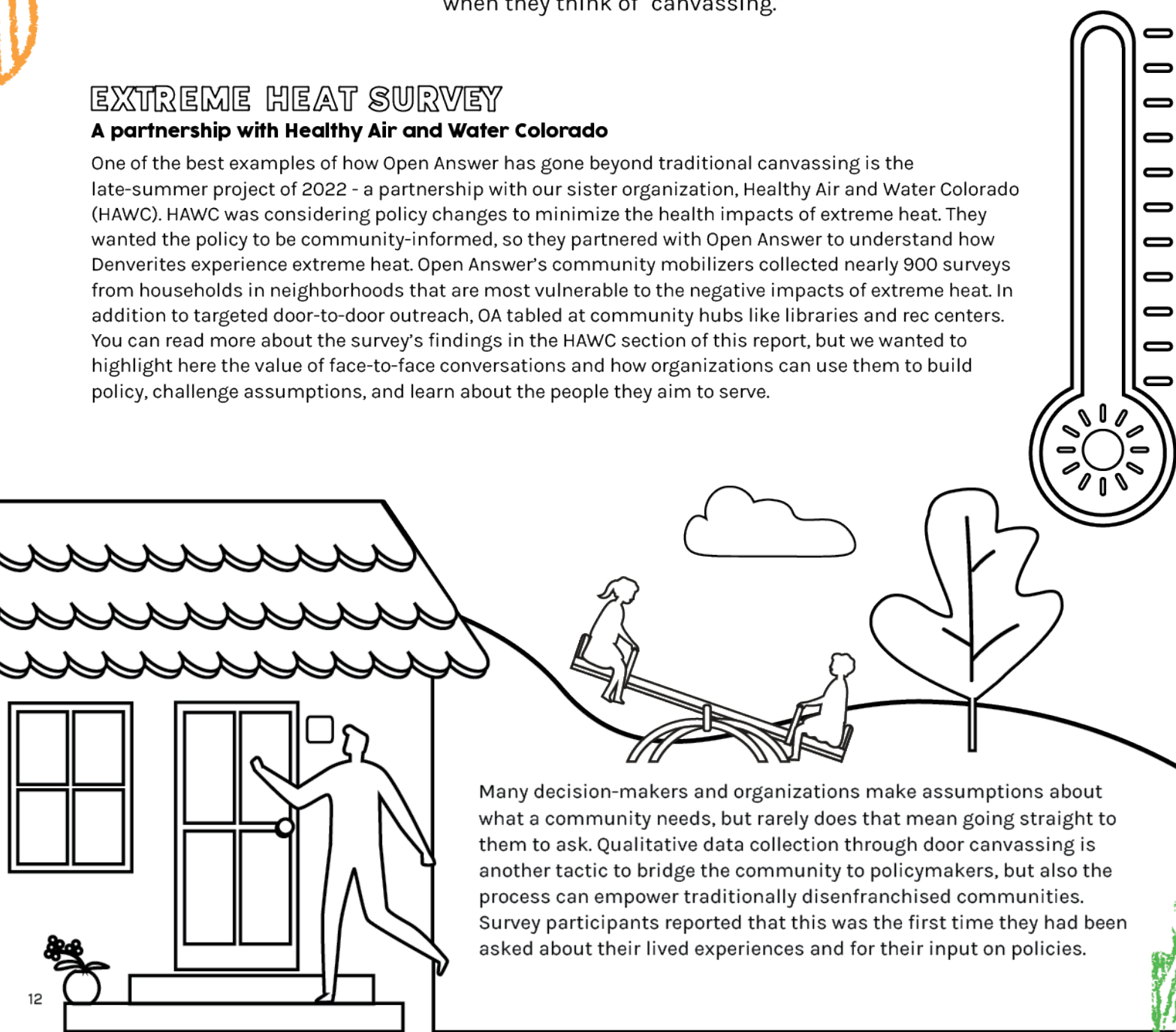
Since its launch in late 2021, Open Answer has exceeded expectations in terms of the breadth and innovation of projects they have taken on. To help lead the work, Open Answer welcomed their first Executive Director, Kate Stigberg, transitioning from her role as Senior Director of Activism at Healthier Colorado.

The success over the last year and a half has led to the launch of Open Answer Mobilize, which is their 501c3 programmatic work that encompasses projects that go beyond what people think of when they think of "canvassing."

EXTREME HEAT SURVEY

A partnership with Healthy Air and Water Colorado

One of the best examples of how Open Answer has gone beyond traditional canvassing is the late-summer project of 2022 - a partnership with our sister organization, Healthy Air and Water Colorado (HAWC). HAWC was considering policy changes to minimize the health impacts of extreme heat. They wanted the policy to be community-informed, so they partnered with Open Answer to understand how Denverites experience extreme heat. Open Answer's community mobilizers collected nearly 900 surveys from households in neighborhoods that are most vulnerable to the negative impacts of extreme heat. In addition to targeted door-to-door outreach, OA tabled at community hubs like libraries and rec centers. You can read more about the survey's findings in the HAWC section of this report, but we wanted to highlight here the value of face-to-face conversations and how organizations can use them to build policy, challenge assumptions, and learn about the people they aim to serve.



Many decision-makers and organizations make assumptions about what a community needs, but rarely does that mean going straight to them to ask. Qualitative data collection through door canvassing is another tactic to bridge the community to policymakers, but also the process can empower traditionally disenfranchised communities. Survey participants reported that this was the first time they had been asked about their lived experiences and for their input on policies.



COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDENS

A partnership with Energy Outreach Colorado

Another partnership of note, is one Open Answer embarked on with Energy Outreach Colorado which is a non-profit that provides energy assistance to Colorado residents. To help income-eligible residents enroll in their Community Solar Garden program, Open Answer community mobilizers hit the doors in targeted neighborhoods where residents needed the assistance most. Mobilizers walked residents through the lengthy application process and provided technical assistance to sign up 140 households in just a few weeks. Those families will now save about 50% on their energy bills.

SMALL DONOR COMMITTEE FUNDRAISING

Campaign finance laws restrict what types of funds can be given to candidates. One of the most effective ways to contribute to state legislative candidates is through Small Donor Committees (SDC). Often, an organization's political power is associated with the size of their SDC treasure chest. Open Answer is proud to take on the hard work of street fundraising on behalf of organizations who advocate for the health, well-being, and equity of Coloradans across the state. To date, Open Answer community mobilizers have raised \$168,757 (including monthly sustainers) that clients can use to elect their champions.

WHAT'S NEXT

At the time of publication of this report, Open Answer is hard at work connecting organizations to community members. They continue to fundraise for organizations so they can advocate for good wages, cost-effective and quality health care, affordable housing, and jobs that offer opportunities to balance hard work and family responsibilities. When the team isn't fundraising, they are communicating to Medicaid-eligible residents about the continuous coverage unwind and ensuring people have the information they need to maintain their coverage. And, starting in the summer of 2023, the team will be conducting participatory research in Jefferson County to hear about families' experiences with early childhood care and learning.



We are proud of our newest sister organization and can't wait to see what's next!

STAFF

as of July, 2023



WELCOME

Adriana Hidalgo!

Adriana is Healthier Colorado's newest team member and Executive Vice President. She comes with vast experience in organizational alignment, political strategy, and bipartisanship. She is excited to join an organization that believes everyone should have an equal opportunity to thrive, and her snack of choice is Greek yogurt with fresh berries and Colorado honey.

COLORADO'S HEALTH CAPITOL

Colorado's Health Capitol is a home to non-profit organizations who elevate the well-being of people in our state and serves as a beacon to attract needed attention to Colorado's health. We collaborate and leverage collective resources that strengthen each organization's ability to accomplish their respective missions. Together, we make an even bigger impact on improving mental, physical, social and economic health in communities across Colorado.

Just a year and a half after the grand opening, Colorado's Health Capitol has reached nearly 100% capacity. Thank you to all of our incredible community members who call the Health Capitol home.

16 Hosted 16 community events

12 Provided 12 networking and training opportunities

324 Home to 324 community members

CHC TENANT DIRECTORY

A Better Balance
America Votes
The Bell Policy Center
Centennial State Prosperity
Center for Health Progress
Chronic Care Collaborative
COLOR
Colorado Academy of Family Physicians
Colorado Consumer Health Initiative
Colorado Council of Black Nurses, Inc.
Colorado Democracy Alliance
Colorado Family Medicine Residencies
Colorado Nurses Association
Colorado Pharmacists Society
Colorado Providers Association
Community Resource Center
Connect for Health Colorado
Conservation Colorado
COPIC
Denver - Rocky Mountain Association of Black Psychologists
Dork Dancing
Energy Outreach Colorado
Family Voices Colorado
Forte Commercial Real Estate

Front Range Area Health Education Center
Healthy Air and Water Colorado
Healthier Colorado
Keystone Policy Center
Mental Health Colorado
Mile High Health Alliance
ONE Colorado
Open Answer

Planned Parenthood Rocky Mountain
Prime Health
Second Wind Fund
Towards Justice
Voces Unidas de las Montañas
Young Invincibles

LEADERSHIP

Healthier Colorado Board as of July, 2023

Gwen Benevento (Chair)

Of Counsel
Maven Law Group

Courtney Cuff

Executive Director
The Impact Projec

Mike Dino

Senior Policy Advisor
Squire Patton Boggs, LLP

Jim Garcia, MPA

Executive Director
Clínica Tepeyac

John Marshall

President
Colorado Mesa University

Pete Maysmith

Senior Vice President of Campaigns
League of Conservation Voters

Brigette McClellan

PsyD, Licensed Clinical Psychologist
Denver Health

Crystal Potter Rivera (Vice Chair)

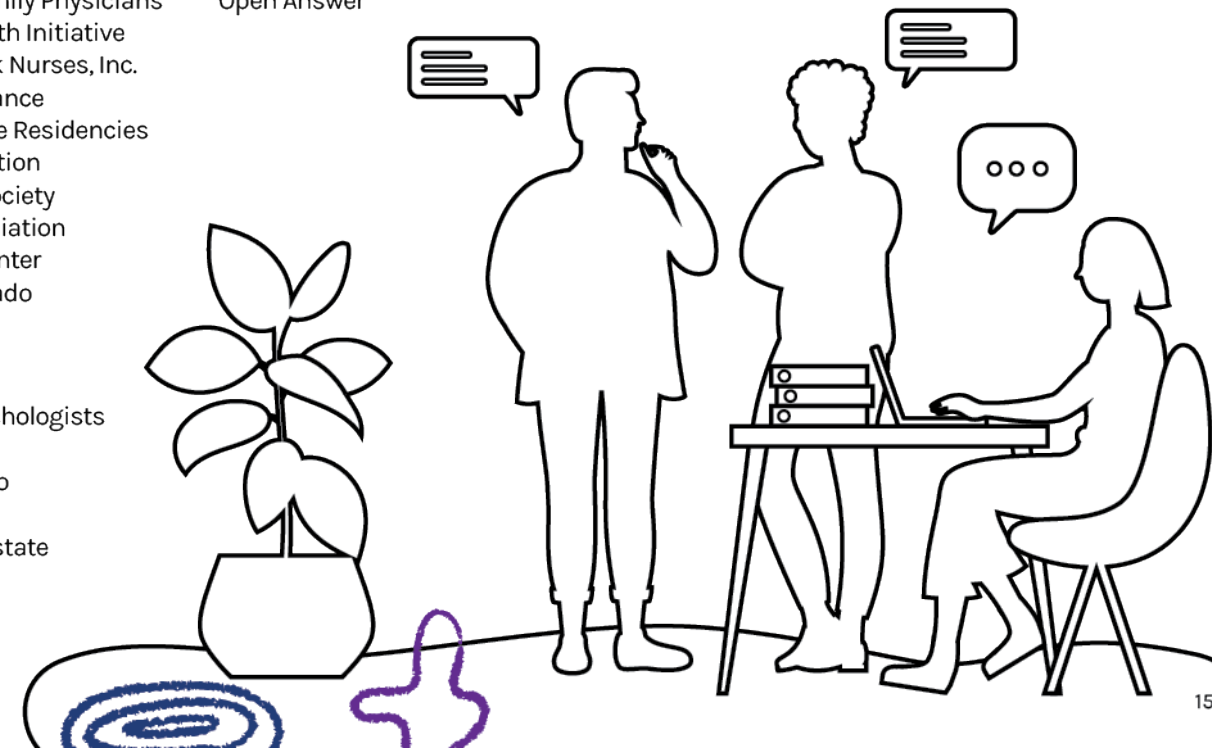
Executive Director
Denver Health Foundation

Jayson Sime

Director of Organizing
The Wilderness Society

Karl Nieschburg

Compliance Officer
Prowers Medical Center





THE FUND FOR A HEALTHIER COLORADO

The Fund for a Healthier Colorado (TFHC) is a 501(c)(3) sister organization that was founded in 2015 and uniquely works across a wide range of health and wellbeing issues. We educate decision-makers and raise the voices of everyday folks across the state to meaningfully move the needle on health equity. We have built a passionate and active membership base from all 64 counties in Colorado. TFHC makes a difference through the following activities:



Going beyond the boundaries of the page isn't always political, in fact, it's oftentimes more about showing up for communities who need support or educating people so they have the information they need to make important decisions. The Fund for a Healthier Colorado created our own drawing boards and started three first-of-its-kind endeavors.

GENERATION BETTER:

Actionable Policy Solutions on Mental Health for the Next Generation

While the children and youth of Colorado deserve a bright future, too many of them are hurting and in crisis. Untreated mental health conditions can tear families apart, leaving them feeling forlorn and hopeless. In the past decade, the proportion of our children and youth struggling with mental health issues has increased significantly. Too often, our political system focuses on problems and falls short of solutions. At Healthier Colorado, it was clear that we needed to intensify our commitment and take action to support the mental well-being of Colorado's children and youth. That is why we released our mental health policy agenda in September 2022.

THE COLORADO GRATITUDE PROJECT:

Thanking our Health Care and Public Health Workers

We know that Coloradans love our health care and public health workers. They were the heroes who took care of us and our loved ones through this pandemic. The Colorado Gratitude Project was our way to EMPHATICALLY show them that we care and appreciate their sacrifices. Our staff made visits to hospitals and clinics in Denver, Vail, Grand Junction, Lamar, and Colorado Springs and hosted pop-up thank you events where we gave away high-value gifts and thanked them for all that they do. The project culminated in a beautiful mural painted in the RiNo Art District by artist Juls Mendoza. You can see it on the corner of 32nd and Larimer Streets - a lasting symbol of praise that all can enjoy.



MEETING OF THE MINDS:

U.S. Senate Forum on Mental Health

The Fund for a Healthier Colorado was proud to host Colorado's first-ever U.S. Senate Candidate Forum on mental health. Mental health is everybody's concern, regardless of political party. Mental health reform proposals are widely popular across the political spectrum, with many garnering more than 90% support, and we knew that Coloradans would benefit from the candidates addressing this topic during their campaigns. The forum was moderated by CBS News Colorado with a panel from Colorado Public Radio, The Colorado Sun, and MindSite News.

LEADERSHIP

TFHC Board as of July, 2023

Mike Dino
(Board Chair)
 Senior Policy Advisor
 Squire Patton Boggs, LLP

Rachel Kaygi
 Political Advisor

Meg Lafave
 Chief of Staff
 Kent Thiry

Orlando Padilla Jr., MA., LPC
 Executive Regional Director
 Samaritan House at Catholic Charities

GET YOUR IMAGINATION STARTED.
 How would you color outside the lines to draw the Healthier Colorado we deserve?

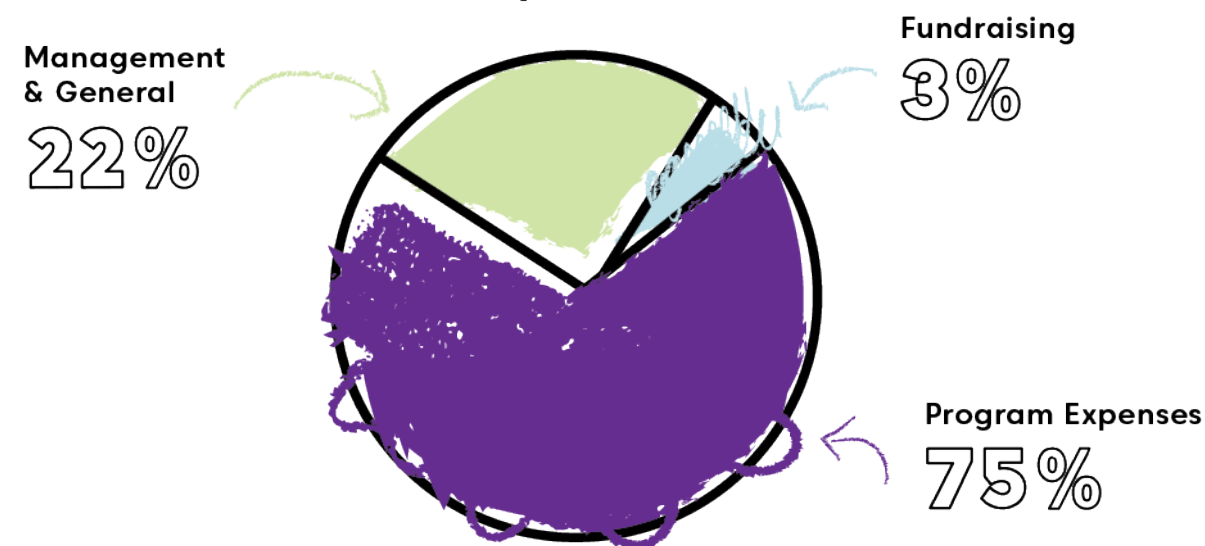


2022 FINANCIALS

The Fund For A Healthier Colorado and Colorado's Health Capitol

The figures presented below are unaudited as we went to press before the completion of our annual audit.

Expenses



Revenue

Donations & Grants	\$ 1,244,641
Contract Revenue	\$ 47,671
Rental Income	\$ 1,123,125
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$ 42,148

Total Revenue \$ **2,457,585**

Expenses

Program	\$ 1,991,777
Management & General	\$ 586,964
Fundraising	\$ 82,348

Total Expenses \$ **2,661,089**

Change in Net Assets \$ **(203,504)**



**HEALTHIER™
COLORADO**



THE FUND FOR A
**HEALTHIER
COLORADO**



COLORADO'S
**HEALTH
CAPITOL**



HEALTHY AIR &
WATER COLORADO



**OPEN™
ANSWER**