



HEALTHIER™ COLORADO

STRENGTH THROUGH CHANGE



THE FUND FOR A
HEALTHIER
COLORADO



COLORADO'S
HEALTH
CAPITOL



HEALTHY AIR &
WATER COLORADO



OPEN™
ANSWER

2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT



10 Years Forward



Over the past decade, Healthier Colorado spearheaded efforts at the capitol and on your ballot to give Coloradans more opportunities to lead healthy lives. Here's to the next 10 years.

Dear Friend of Healthier Colorado,

We certainly weren't the first to believe in breaking things and reforming them as positive acts. The Greeks smash plates to celebrate new beginnings. In the practice of Kitsugi, Japanese artists take the pieces of broken pottery and glue them back together with lacquer, gold and silver to make them stronger and more beautiful. In foundries around the world, metal is melted down and cast into new creations. As tin or aluminum is the material associated with 10 year anniversaries, it got me thinking about our experience of forging metamorphosis over this past decade.

Just as Healthier Colorado disrupts the status quo of public policy in the course of improving people's ability to be well, we also look within our own organization to see what needs to be broken down and built anew to serve our mission. We don't focus on the same set of issues we did when we were founded 10 years ago, because we address new public health needs as they arise. We've also created sister organizations Healthy Air and Water Colorado, Colorado's Health Capitol and Open Answer to capitalize on emerging opportunities. We look different than we did in 2014, and we're stronger in 2024 because of that change.

When I started this job, I did not anticipate having to develop a law to address social media platforms in the interest of public health. TikTok did not even exist in 2014, but now the majority of American teens use this social media platform regularly, as they do others, like Snapchat and Instagram. As a plethora of evidence now shows that social media use can have a detrimental effect on youth mental health, we passed a nation-leading law this year that regulates social media companies to help protect kids, and provides families with new resources so that youth can navigate these platforms with greater safety.

I don't know what needs and opportunities will arise between now and 2034. I only know that we'll have to continue our metamorphosis to meet them. In the next 10 years, just as in the previous 10 years, this change will occur atop an unshakeable foundation – a belief that everyone deserves the opportunity to live a healthy life. Thank you for supporting our mission on this journey of building strength through change.

Sincerely,

Jake Williams
CEO, Healthier Colorado



2014

Healthier Colorado is born; launches with a statewide tour.

2015

Improved nutrition, screen time and physical activity standards in child care centers statewide; educated voters in Pueblo and Denver municipal elections regarding candidates' positions on health issues; Created our 501(c)(3), The Fund for a Healthier Colorado.



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.

2016

Victorious in Boulder ballot measure to institute nation's second ever sugary drinks tax, but lost statewide ballot measure to invest in health via a tobacco tax increase.

2017

Passed legislation to end the use of jails for people experiencing mental health crisis; hosted gubernatorial candidates at Coors Field event.

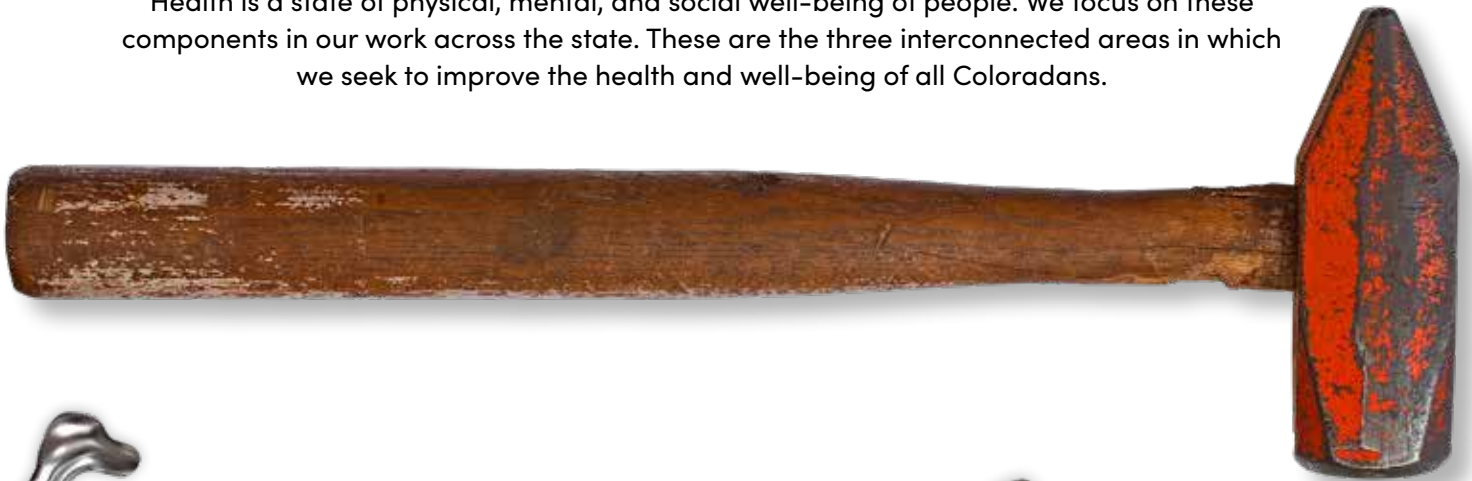
2018

Published first legislative scorecard and issued first round of contributions to state legislative candidates in both parties; passed bill to expand access to free lunch for kids in K-8th grades.

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.



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 healthcare. We seek to break down these barriers in order to give everybody a chance at living a healthy life.



2019

Launched Healthy Air and Water Colorado; removed a decades-old penalty that prevented local regulation of tobacco.

2020

Created universal access to preschool with passage of statewide ballot initiative (Proposition EE) to increase nicotine tax, initiated a "get out the vaccine" campaign to address the COVID-19 pandemic; Launched Open Answer (December).

2021

Launched Colorado's Health Capitol; created the "Colorado Option" for affordable health insurance; created a state health service corps to be ready for future pandemics.

STATEWIDE LEGISLATIVE WORK



Healthier Colorado has been formed, remolded, melted down, and reshaped into what we are today. Over the past decade, we owe our success to our members and the ability to grow and see the great strength in change. This legislative session we created first-of-its-kind policies that will improve youth mental health outcomes, strengthen Colorado's child care infrastructure, and increase access to affordable housing and nutrition services. We also carried forward our work to give people who have been impacted by the justice system a true second chance.



WELDING A BETTER FUTURE FOR YOUTH

HB24-1136: Healthier Social Media Use by Youth

HB24-1136 is a response to the call to action made by the U.S. Surgeon General to address the public health threats of social media on youth. This bill is a first-of-its-kind public health approach rooted in equipping teens, parents, and educators with the information and tools needed to make informed decisions that empower teens to create healthier social media habits that will contribute to their mental and physical wellness. The evidence-informed solutions proposed by this bill recognize that education and agency are important foundations for positive behavior change.



HAMMERING FORWARD CHILD CARE AFFORDABILITY

HB24-1223: Improved Access to the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program

Too many parents who want to work and provide for their families cannot because they don't have access to affordable, quality child care. The Colorado Child Care Assistance Program, or CCCAP, provides child care subsidies to low-income, working families or families that are in job training or school. This bill creates a streamlined, efficient process to ensure this critical state program works for parents instead of against them. It also stabilizes Colorado's child care infrastructure with updated payment models to grow the system of care that our economy depends on to thrive. Colorado has now opened the door to stronger support for families, thriving small businesses, and healthy communities.



FORTIFYING ECONOMIC STABILITY

HB24-1133: Criminal Record Sealing & Expungement Changes

In 2022, the Colorado General Assembly passed Senate Bill 099, the Colorado Clean Slate Act, with nearly unanimous support to create an automatic record-sealing process for people with past, non-violent criminal records that were already eligible to be sealed. HB24-1133 is a crucial step forward to ensure Colorado has the most successful clean slate implementation in the country. In the coming years, hundreds of thousands of people are set to have their records sealed so they can access meaningful jobs and stable housing and will be more empowered to contribute to their communities.



CREATING A CAST FOR INNOVATION

HB24-1322: Medicaid Coverage Housing and Nutrition Services

A stable and safe home and access to nutritious food is the foundation to living a healthy life; yet, too many Coloradans either cannot secure housing, are on the verge of homelessness, or cannot get the food they need to stay healthy. This bill directs Colorado to study and pursue a federal 1115 waiver so that Medicaid can fund housing and nutrition services. This would be the first time that people who use Medicaid can get housing and nutrition support, marking a transformational shift in the way we fight poverty and improve health.

PILA AND STATEWIDE BALLOT INITIATIVES

FORGING FORWARD: WINNING IN YOUR COMMUNITY

When you turn the faucet on for water, send your kid to school, figure out how to afford your next home, call for emergency services, or even just take a breath, your ability to lead a healthy life is being directly impacted by the decisions of your local government. Even though you might hear less about it than you do about the political debates at the State Capitol or in Washington, D.C., local public policy can make a profound difference in the lives of Coloradans. That's why we created Partnerships for Local Advocacy (PiLA), a program in which we provide resources to local advocates who want to pass local policies to improve the well-being of their communities.

In 2024, we hosted the first-ever PiLA Summit - an event where we brought together advocates who want to run a local ballot measure to improve community well-being together with funders and knowledgeable campaigners. We connected advocates from communities across Colorado with the resources they need to succeed.



SPARKING CHANGE FROM THE GROUND UP

Pueblo 2A:

This initiative would have raised an estimated \$630,000 annually to create a special fund for child care programs. The special fund would have expanded child care assistance to middle-income families who do not qualify for the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP) but are still unable to access child care for their children due to the high cost of care.

Ute Pass 7A:

This initiative would have provided much needed funding to support and expand services to people living in Teller and Park Counties. The Ute Pass Ambulance District provides lifesaving care, at-home medical visits, substance use support, and wrap-around support so people can be healthy and safe.

Prop II:

In 2020, Prop EE passed with bi-partisan support and is already making a difference in the lives of Colorado families. The measure is investing in Kindergarten readiness by providing all Colorado kids access to preschool in the year before kindergarten and supporting critical health programs. Prop II successfully passed to continue investing in Colorado kids by providing pre-k to every four-year-old in the state.

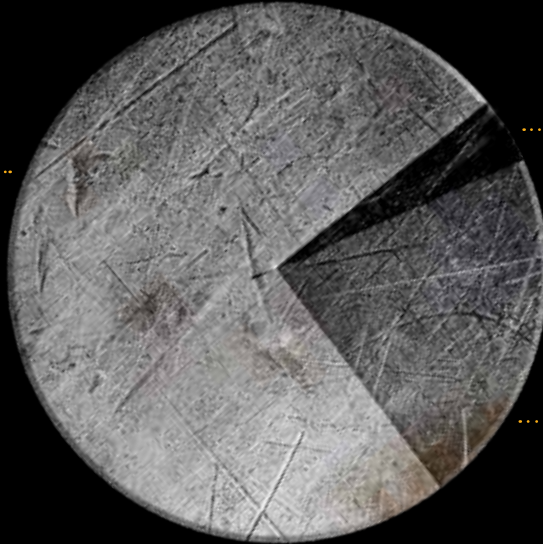
2022

Hosted first ever U.S. Senate forum on mental health; created a new class of health professionals, Dental Therapists, to help deliver lower cost oral health services; executed the "Colorado Gratitude Project" to thank health care workers for their service during the pandemic.

FINANCIALS

EXPENSES

Program Expenses
75%



Fundraising
4%

Management
& General
21%

Revenue

Donations	\$	682,257
Contract	\$	1,643,156
Rental	\$	–
Miscellaneous	\$	478,011
Total Revenue	\$	2,803,424

Expenses

Program	\$	2,399,489
Management & General	\$	671,857
Fundraising	\$	127,973
Total Expenses	\$	3,199,319
Change in Net Assets	\$	(395,895)

2023

Provided psychologists with prescriptive authority in order to increase access to needed medication; passed statewide ballot measure Proposition II to keep nicotine tax revenue to invest in preschool.

2024

Passed a first-of-its-kind law in the nation to mitigate impact on youth mental health; reduced red tape for low-income families to access affordable childcare.



STAFF

HEALTHIER COLORADO *as of June 2024*

Adriana Hidalgo
Executive Vice President

Alexis Alltop
Policy Manager

Christina Walker
Senior Director of Policy

Erika Bodor
Development Director

Jake Williams
CEO

Jason Castro
Senior Director of Finance and Accounting

Jayne Sharkey
Operations and Accounting Manager
Not Pictured

Kyle Piccola
Vice President of Communications and Advocacy

Leo Yáñez
Digital Communications Specialist

Megan Kemp
Director, Healthy Air and Water Colorado (HAWC)

Meghann Jordan
Administrative Assistant

Micha Stone
Community Director, Colorado's Health Capitol

LEADERSHIP

HEALTHIER COLORADO BOARD *as of June 2024*

Brigitte McClellan, PsyD
Licensed Clinical Psychologist
Children's Hospital Colorado

Carry Kauffman
Founder and CEO, WellSelf 360

Crystal Potter Rivera
(Vice Chair)
Executive Director
Denver Health Foundation

Courtney Cuff
Executive Director
The Impact Project

Daniel Ramos

Gwen Benevento
Of Counsel
West Group (formerly Maven Law Group)

Jake Swanton
Vice President of State Affairs,
Inseparable

Jayson Sime
(Chair)
Director of Organizing
The Wilderness Society

John Marshall
President
Colorado Mesa University

Karl Nieschburg
Compliance Officer
Prowers Medical Center

Mike Dino
Senior Policy Advisor
Squire Patton Boggs, LLP

HEALTHY AIR & WATER COLORADO

Healthy Air and Water Colorado (HAWC) is Healthier Colorado's sister organization that focuses exclusively on public policy to address growing public health threats posed by climate change. We know that poor 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. HAWC engages health care professionals, including frontline health care providers who see and treat the real health issues caused by our changing environment, to strengthen their advocacy skills and center the health perspective in the fight for equitable, meaningful solutions to climate change.

HAWC MEMBER HIGHLIGHT



Dr. Nikita Habermehl

Nikita Habermehl, D.O. specializes in pediatric emergency medicine and has been a member of Healthy Air and Water Colorado since 2021. As a member, Dr. Habermehl has consistently shown up to deepen her advocacy skills and employ them to push for meaningful solutions to protect Colorado communities from the growing impacts of climate change. In 2024, Dr. Habermehl served as a dedicated spokesperson, calling on state lawmakers to take bold action to improve Colorado's ozone crisis for the sake of public health. A mother of two, this impressive physician balances her family time and climate advocacy with busy clinic and teaching schedules. Impressively, Dr. Habermehl also works closely with medical students to include climate change and advocacy in curricula to help shape future climate and health leaders.

DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENT

After nearly three years of serving as Healthy Air and Water Colorado's Policy and Advocacy Manager, Megan Kemp stepped into the role of Director in May 2024. Megan's commitment to HAWC's mission will undoubtedly build upon our impact in advocating for healthier environments for communities across our state.

2019



Healthy Air & Water Colorado (HAWC) is born.

2020



Raised the maximum fines for air and water pollution violations.

2021



Passed laws to improve health-based accountability for industrial air toxic emissions, and to ensure easier consumer access to climate-friendly appliances.



You can support this PAC here:



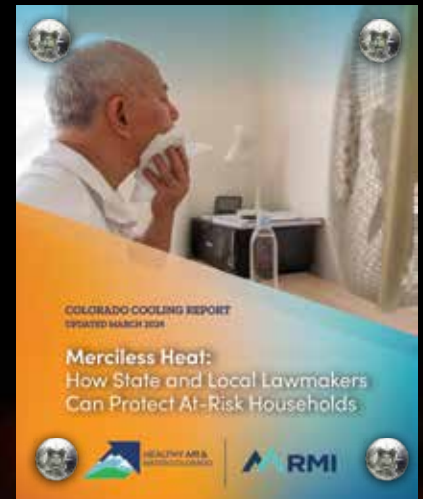
HAWCA PAC LAUNCH

In October 2023, we launched the Healthy Air and Water Colorado Action PAC (Political Action Committee). Recognizing the importance of electing lawmakers who center climate, health, and equity in their work, the HAWCA PAC aims to lend support to down-ballot candidates that hold these shared values.

SAFEGUARDING COMMUNITIES AGAINST EXTREME HEAT

Over the last four decades, the number of 100°F days in Denver has increased by nearly 400%. More frequent extreme heat events result in more human health impacts. As extreme heat events become more frequent, Coloradans who lack cooling are increasingly seeking emergency services for heat-related illnesses such as heat stroke, exhaustion, and exacerbated cases of diabetes and asthma. Between 2014 and 2022, the number of emergency room visits for illnesses from extreme heat more than doubled in Colorado.

In 2023, HAWC published the Colorado Cooling Report with RMI to serve as an educational and policy resource for decision makers to utilize in developing equitable solutions to extreme heat challenges. “Merciless Heat: How State and Local Lawmakers Can Protect At-Risk Households” builds on research highlighting the inequities in access to cooling faced by many Coloradans and explores various policy levers and funding opportunities that state and local officials can employ in protecting communities from the risks of extreme heat.



FORGING RESILIENCY FOR HOMEOWNERS AND RENTERS

HAWC worked to prioritize additional incentives to increase the accessibility of heat pumps to deliver cooling relief to homeowners and renters in need. Senate Bill 24-214 Implement State Climate Goals provides a clean up of existing state tax credits for heat pumps to make them easier to use, and requires the Colorado Energy Office to study the best way to make affordable, efficient cooling available to all by the end of the decade.

HAWC also worked to pass Senate Bill 24-094, Safe Housing for Residential Tenants. In addition to other important updates to the Warranty of Habitability that ensure Colorado renters have safe and healthy housing, this bill ensures tenants can access timely repairs and a habitable home, including policies to enable appropriate cooling in extreme heat.

2022

Created grant programs for local governments to improve wildfire mitigation, and to better fund zero-emitting buses, electric bicycles and energy efficiency projects.

2023

Released landmark report on the disparate health impacts of extreme heat in climate-vulnerable Denver communities; established new building codes to protect residents against wildfires.

2024

Passed bills to meaningfully reduce ozone pollution and establish legacy funding for public transit with a new fee on oil and gas.

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 candidate persuasion, and everything in between.

Since the last annual report, Open Answer Mobilize (OA's 501c3 arm) has really taken off. The team has taken on projects that go well beyond the scope of what people perceive as "canvassing".

CREATING COMMUNITIES OF STEEL

Open Answer Mobilize in the field

In the summer of 2023, our team of community mobilizers conducted over 400 in-person surveys of families with children under 6 in Jefferson County as part of a grant-funded collaboration with The Fund for a Healthier Colorado and The Colorado Gives Foundation. The team spoke with families from a diverse range of backgrounds throughout the county and worked to ensure that they received a representative sample for data analysis. The team had to remold our tactics in order to find eligible survey participants, tabling at libraries during toddler time, canvassing parks, and finding other locations where caregivers were. The information that was collected, combined with other relevant existing data, helped paint a full, detailed picture to inform policy recommendations for Early Childhood Education (ECE) providers and associations across the state. Based on the success of this project and the team's ability to have in-depth conversations with people face-to-face who they might otherwise not be able to reach.

The Colorado Gives Foundation partnered with the two organizations again - this time to survey the ECE workforce to determine what barriers they face. This winter, the team scheduled and conducted over 400 surveys with ECE providers of all types - licensed providers, informal care providers, administrators, teachers, and home providers - to try to better understand the profession's high turnover rate. Again, the information that the team of mobilizers was able to collect helped paint a deeper, more nuanced picture of the challenges ECE providers face.

These projects demonstrate how organizations can harness and utilize the power of face-to-face connection to hear directly from the community to better inform policies that are aimed to support the same community. Survey participants were eager to participate and were grateful that their voice was heard and was being used to inform public policy recommendations to make improvements in their profession.

2020

Open Answer is born in December.

2021

Fundraising projects included Healthier Colorado, One Colorado, COLOR.

2022

14 projects included fundraising, ballot signature collection, electioneering; surveyed low-income communities in Metro Denver on impact of extreme heat and signed up people to join community solar gardens.





STAFF

OPEN ANSWER as of June 2024

Evan Gathers
Field and Operations Director,
Colorado

María Jose Taminez Borda
Operations Manager

Kate Stigberg
Executive Director

Taylor Mickens
Filed and Operation Director,
North Carolina

SOLIDIFYING ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

Another project of note is Open Answer’s partnership with Colorado Access, a Medicaid provider in Denver and Aurora. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Medicaid recipients were not required to recertify their eligibility in order to keep their coverage, so when the public health emergency ended, tens of thousands of Colorado families and children were at risk of losing their health insurance if they didn’t act. In order to help ensure members knew about this reinstated requirement, Open Answer spoke with thousands of residents to inform them of the changes by partnering with local food banks and community hubs like libraries and rec centers. While privacy laws prohibit us from knowing who is on Medicaid and thus who re-enrolled, we do know that Colorado Access had higher recertification rates than their counterparts in the state. We believe that is because of our robust efforts to talk with Denver and Aurora citizens.

BRACING NEW TERRITORY - OPEN ANSWER IN NORTH CAROLINA

Open Answer is working with 5 state-based advocacy organizations this year in North Carolina, supporting them in a myriad of ways - HR and administrative services, recruitment and hiring support, and field execution and management.

- Rally NC
- North Carolina Asian Americans Together (NCAAT)
- NCAAT in Action (NCAAT’s 501c4 arm)
- New Rural Project
- New North Carolina Project Action First



We are proud to support these organizations and the communities they represent and look forward to building our footprint in the state.

OPEN ANSWER GOING STRONG WITH HEALTHIER COLORADO SMALL DONOR COMMITTEE (SDC) DONATIONS

We would be remiss to not mention one of the driving factors in launching Open Answer - raising money into Healthier Colorado SDC in order to help elect pro-health champions to the state legislature. Since Open Answer’s launch in late 2021, the team has collected over \$220,000 from over 5,000 unique donors. From those total donations, over 4,543 individuals have opted in to their donation going into the SDC.

2023

2024

19 projects including two ECE-focused survey collection projects and a large-scale public education campaign around Medicaid recertification in Denver/Aurora; Expanded operations to North Carolina

Multiple election campaigns in CO & NC; expanded range of services to include HR and administrative support, hiring and recruitment work, and field guidance for allied advocacy organizations.

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.



*Healthier Colorado's 2024
Legislative reception hosted at
Colorado's Health Capitol*

COLORADO'S HEALTH CAPITOL HIGHLIGHTS

- CHC underwent a minor facelift in the summer of 2024 adding approximately 600 sf and 7 additional workstations and 4 in-demand private offices.
- Home to 38 organizations and serving 300 community members.
- Networking events hosted at CHC this year focused on social, community building events, as well as tenant hosted training workshops and happy hours, or receptions.
 - CHC celebrated community with Summer Sundaes ice cream socials and Breakfast Taco Tuesdays
 - Holiday mixers included a Halloween costume party and chili cook off, Thanksgiving potluck and a Christmas potluck and cookie decorating
 - 10 tenant organizations hosted legislative events celebrating the start of 2024 session
 - A dozen advocacy or volunteer training events hosted by tenant organizations.



2020

Paperwork completed to begin construction.

2021

Inaugural set of tenants move in (March), Governor Polis cuts the ceremonial ribbon for launch.

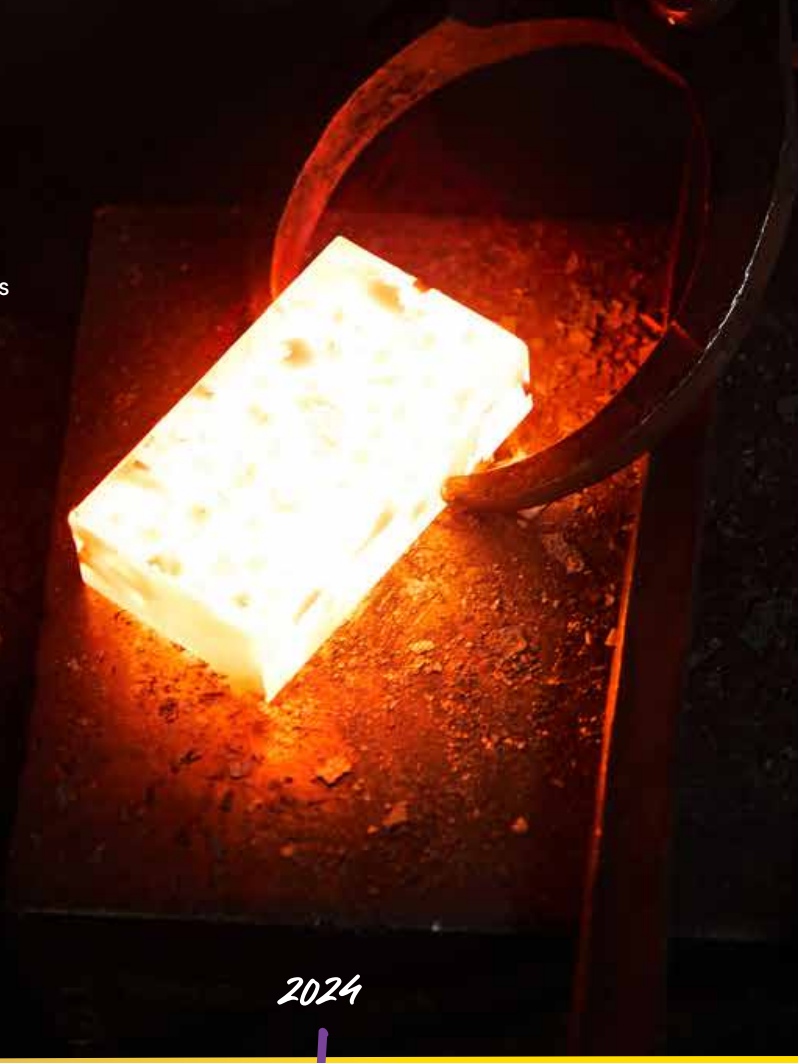


CHC TENANT DIRECTORY

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



July installment of Summer Sundaes at CHC



2022

Health Capitol fills to capacity with tenants.

2023

Survey indicates 100% overall satisfaction rating among tenants.

2024

Additional offices and workstations installed.

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 well-being 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:

Research and Policy Development; Voter Contact and Education; Education and Outreach to all; Leadership Development Training; and Decision Maker Education



IGNITING OUR MOVEMENT

ON THE ROAD LISTENING TO YOUTH

We are facing a youth mental health crisis here in Colorado and in the United States. From depression and anxiety, to self-harm and substance use disorder, we need to focus youth in shaping a path forward. Healthier Colorado held a series of statewide youth mental health listening sessions to understand what is most important to them when it comes to their mental health. We talked about the issues that impacted them and the solutions that they felt would improve the frightening trends they've experienced.

CENTERING JUSTICE IMPACTED COLORADANS

A past conviction can haunt someone long after they have served their sentence. In fact, a record can prevent people from finding meaningful employment, securing safe and stable housing, pursuing higher education opportunities, and even volunteering. In 2023, we created the Clean Slate Leadership Academy to bring people impacted by the justice system to the forefront of policy change. Together, these leaders created advocacy plans, learned about the legislative process, engaged with organizations working to create change, and have been active in policy change during the 2024 Legislative Session. They played a critical role in passing two bills that transformed the way Colorado supports people with past records.

2015

The Fund for a Healthier Colorado is born.

2016

Began statewide education campaign on the benefits of water fluoridation

2017

2018

Hosted mental health awareness bike rides in Grand Junction, Fort Collins; trained 180 people as health advocates.

2019

Conducted grassroots listening sessions in Lamar, Alamosa, Grand Junction, Pueblo, Montrose & Salida.

2020

Took initial steps towards creating Colorado's Health Capitol.



BUILDING A CHILD CARE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ALL

One of the most economically debilitating issues facing families in all four corners of Colorado is the high cost of child care. Healthier Colorado partnered with the Colorado Gives Foundation and our sister organization Open Answer to interview both parents and child care providers living in Jefferson County. Altogether, we received nearly 1,000 surveys that will help guide meaningful policy change in Jefferson County and the state.

HAVING THE TOUGH CONVERSATIONS

While suicide is often understood as being the result of a prolonged struggle with mental illness, research reveals that suicidal crises can rapidly escalate within minutes or hours. We learned about this devastating occurrence from our friend and colleague Jordana Ash, whose son Maddy Lignell experienced an acute and catastrophic mental health crisis over the short course of days and tragically died in May 2021. A movement is building to define acute suicidality as a condition of its own, with two emerging diagnoses currently being considered for inclusion in the next edition of The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. Healthier Colorado convened leading experts and people affected by suicide to talk about the acute onset of suicide and help pave a path forward on how to best address it.

Making a difference in people's ability to lead a healthy life isn't always political. In fact, oftentimes it's rooted in showing up for communities who need support or educating people so they have the information they need to make important decisions. Through our work, The Fund for a Healthier Colorado is dedicated to engaging Coloradans to create a path forward to this goal.

LEADERSHIP

TFHC COLORADO BOARD *as of June 2024*

Meg Lafave

Chief People and Culture Officer,
Envision Healthcare

Orlando Padilla Jr., MA., LPC

Executive Regional Director
Samaritan House at Catholic Charities

Mike Dino

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

Rachel Kaygi

Political Advisor

2021

Made 36,218 calls, sent 28,432 text messages and partnered with 18 organizations to connect people with COVID-19 vaccines.

2022

Ran the "Colorado Gratitude Project" to thank health care workers statewide for their service during the pandemic; produced "Generation Better," a policy action plan to improve youth mental health.

2023

Conducted listening sessions with youth across Colorado to inform our approach to addressing social media impact on mental health.

FINANCIALS

THE FUND FOR A HEALTHIER COLORADO AND COLORADO'S HEALTH CAPITOL

EXPENSES



Revenue

Donations & Grants	\$	1,049,322
Contract Revenue	\$	45,745
Rental	\$	1,134,188
Miscellaneous	\$	130,207.00
Total Revenue	\$	2,359,462

Expenses

Program	\$	1,559,277
Management & General	\$	430,853
Fundraising	\$	61,550
Total Expenses	\$	2,051,680
Change in Net Assets	\$	307,782

WE ARE POWERED BY THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF DONORS LIKE YOU.

**PLEASE HELP US FORGE OUR
NEXT DECADE FORWARD.**



**HELP US
PASS LAWS**



**RAISE THE
VOICES OF
COLORADANS**



HEALTHIER™ COLORADO

