

together,
connected
more than ever.

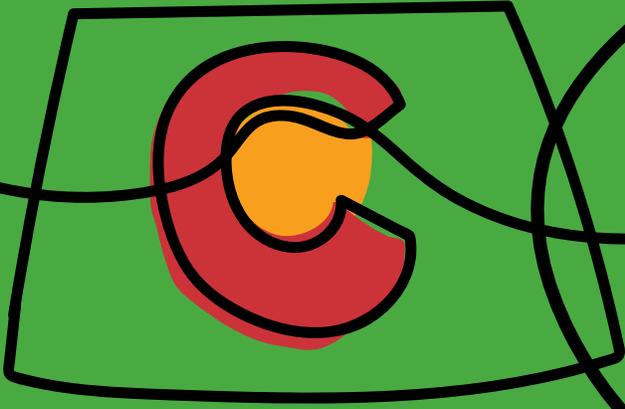


HEALTHIER™
COLORADO

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



A note from the Executive Director



connected

In the year 2020, millions of us saved the lives of millions of other people we will never meet. Maybe that's not what you were thinking about when you put your mask on, postponed family gatherings, or stayed home during the shut down, but that's what you did. And maybe you did or maybe you didn't personally face the injustices you spoke up against in the wake of George Floyd's murder. Either way, the reverberation of your voice and actions will nonetheless protect those who would.

As 2020 reminded us, we are all connected. This truth is an epidemiological reality. More importantly, our shared humanity can be a source of strength. Personally, the acts of selflessness and solidarity I witnessed helped carry me through the pandemic. Professionally, I could not be prouder of what our team at Healthier Colorado managed to accomplish under difficult circumstances.

In the state legislature:

- We passed one of the strongest paid sick leave policies in the United States.
- We addressed Colorado's last-in-the-nation status on childhood immunizations by passing new requirements that will elevate immunization levels for school-aged children across Colorado.
- We lowered the cost of health insurance by as much as 30% for people through "re-insurance" legislation and helped more than 50,000 Coloradans afford health care
- We championed legislation to be one of the first states in the country to provide health care subsidies to immigrant families and individuals regardless of their documentation status.

At the ballot box:

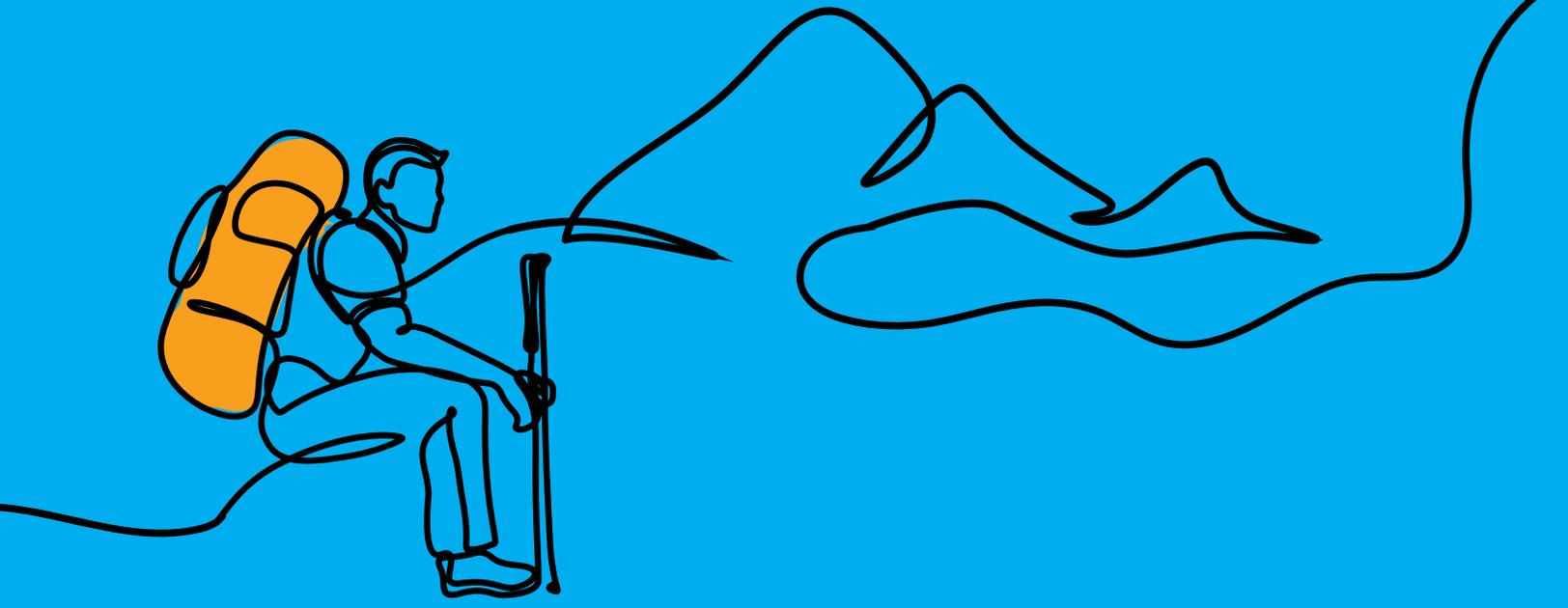
- We passed a statewide ballot measure that placed a tax on vaping and other nicotine products that provided immediate economic relief from the effects of the pandemic and will provide universal access to preschool for Colorado's kids.
- Our financially-supported candidates (both Republicans and Democrats) won in 54 of the 55 state legislative races and 12 out of 12 county commissioner races in which we participated.
- 3 of the 3 ballot initiatives we supported at the local level were adopted by voters.

These highlights from our story in 2020 were only possible because of the thousands of Coloradans who supported our campaigns — 17,038 people took an action (signed a petition, attended a meeting, made a phone call) to support our local or state legislative campaigns. This connection has always been the heartbeat of our organization, and it will be what powers us to create a brighter future for all of Colorado.

Sincerely,

Jake Williams
Executive Director
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.



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 wellbeing of all Coloradans.



Physical Health

Physical health is the wellbeing 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 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 wellbeing. 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 wellbeing. 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.

Statewide Legislative Work

Each legislative session comes with its fair share of hurdles and the 2020 legislative session was no exception. While the COVID-19 pandemic presented myriad challenges in the legislative process, we had the most successful session in our organization's history. Our team accomplished even more than we originally set out to do. The 2020 legislative session was full of big fights but presented unique opportunities to work with legislators on swift action for public health policy.

We are immensely proud of the work our team and our members were able to accomplish despite the innumerable barriers 2020 presented. A few highlights from our statewide legislative work are listed below.

Tobacco Control Package

- ✓ **HB20-1001-Nicotine Product Regulation**
- ✗ **HB20-1319-Flavor Ban**
- ✓ **HB20-1427-Cigarette Tobacco and Nicotine Products Tax**

Colorado has the highest teen vaping rate with over a quarter of our high-school-aged youth vaping. This package of tobacco control bills was specifically designed to protect Colorado's youth by decreasing access and utilization of these deadly products. From holding retailers accountable for selling to minors, removing the state possession penalty, closing the online sales loophole for purchase, asking voters to raise the price of tobacco products, to attempting to ban the sale of flavored tobacco products, these bills are all evidence-based approaches to reduce access and use to protect our kids and their lifelong health.

- ✓ **Proposition EE**

After years of going head to head with Big Tobacco, we were able to pass sweeping changes in tobacco and nicotine reform culminating in the successful passage of Proposition EE. In the November 2020 statewide election, Colorado voters approved Prop EE. This measure implemented a new tax on nicotine vaping products and raised taxes on tobacco products. The revenue from this tax will fund universal pre-k for Colorado children, housing assistance programs, and tobacco cessation and education programs.



SB20-042-Treatment of Persons with Behavioral Health Disorders in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems

This bill extended the repeal date for the legislative oversight committee concerning the treatment of individuals with behavioral health disorders in the criminal and juvenile justice systems. This task force (on which we now hold a seat) represents a unique space with diverse criminal justice, mental health, individuals with lived experience, and advocacy representation for the necessary collaboration to reduce the number of persons with mental and behavioral health disorders in the criminal justice system.



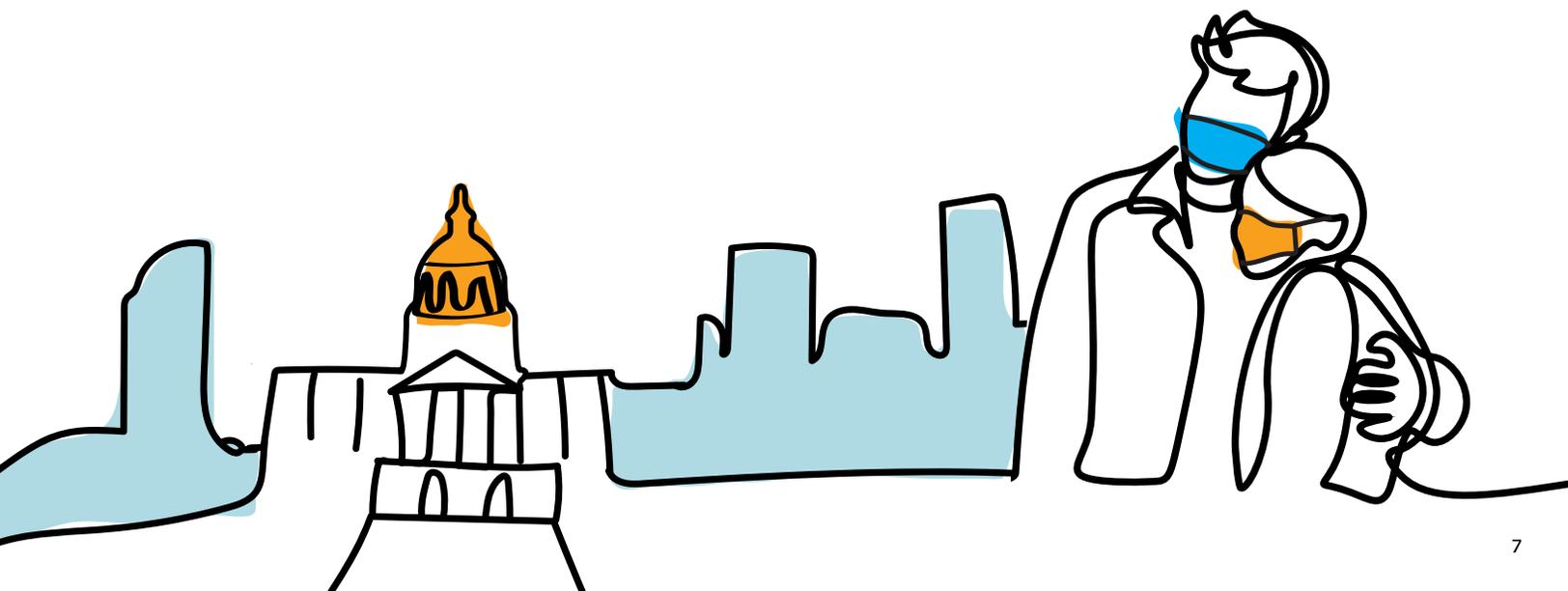
SB20-163-Vaccines for School Entry

In Colorado, we rank last in the nation with only 87% of kindergarten-aged children having received vaccines for diseases like measles, mumps, and rubella. This lower rate means that Coloradans are not protected through herd immunity, putting people with compromised immune systems and kids who are too young to be vaccinated at risk. This bill will improve Colorado's vaccination rates by streamlining and standardizing the school vaccine entry process, so that we can better protect members of our communities who are most at risk against vaccine-preventable diseases.



SB20-215-Health Insurance Affordability Enterprise

This bill allowed Colorado to begin collecting an existing fee to invest in a state program and reduces insurance costs for people paying the most for their health care. The monies generated by the fee will ensure there is ongoing funding for Colorado's successful reinsurance program, which reduced individual market premiums by 20 percent its first year and was an essential support to rural Coloradans. It will also make insurance more affordable for low-income consumers by providing extra funding to pay for their high premiums on the individual market. Additionally, it will expand coverage for up to 200,000 Coloradans who have been left out of the Affordable Care Act, including people who lack proper documentation and those in the "family glitch." Because of 215, Coloradans will see a monumental impact in their access to quality, affordable health care.



Covid Poll



The year 2020 brought immeasurable challenges that deeply affected our physical and mental health. Layered with social isolation, job loss and few answers about what the future held, the pandemic unraveled the connections that once held together the fabric of our 'normal' lives.

In an effort to understand the needs and beliefs of Coloradans during this unprecedented year, Healthier Colorado commissioned a statewide poll.

This poll, produced by Magellan Strategies and in partnership with the Colorado Health Foundation, allowed us to measure and understand the concerns, needs, experiences, and attitudes of Coloradans on the coronavirus pandemic. The information from this poll aided in setting the stage for Colorado to analyze the statewide and local response to the pandemic and determine the next steps health officials and decision makers could take to support a full Colorado recovery. Healthier Colorado hosted a number of virtual stakeholder meetings to equip leaders with needed information to ensure every Coloradan would have equal access to healing, whether that be emotional, physical, financial or cultural. Key findings from the poll are listed below.

- Young Coloradans and those living on low-incomes shared the greater burden of pandemic impact;
- A majority of Coloradans said the stress and worry from the coronavirus outbreak impacted their mental health;
- More Coloradans were worried about paying for necessities of daily living like housing, food, utilities and prescription drugs;
- Coloradans overwhelmingly felt the government should do more to make health care more affordable, support individuals who cannot afford food and housing, and provide paid sick and family leave; and
- Most people felt there are significant changes ahead to the way we live, socialize and work, even after the coronavirus outbreak is under control.

746

**people attended
the virtual
general session**



63

**leaders attended
the the virtual
policymaker session**

Legislative Scorecard

The 2020 Legislative Session was a remarkable, bipartisan salute to the health and wellbeing of all Coloradans. Out of an unprecedented pandemic, a truncated session, and with a bewildering pace, came one of the most successful legislative sessions for public health in the past decade. Bold solutions that increase access to affordable care, promote health equity, and build healthier communities made it to the Governor's desk —largely bipartisan and largely driven by legislators with a proven record of fighting for Coloradans and their health.

We started the 2020 legislative session with an ambitious agenda, and we ended it by accomplishing even more than originally planned. The coronavirus pandemic presented many hurdles to the legislative process, but it also helped highlight for legislators the need to act on public health policy. Healthier Colorado believes that holding legislators accountable through shining a light on the policies they support and oppose is an effective way to achieve long-term, systemic advancements for public health. Our annual legislative scorecard is the central piece of this ongoing strategy.



Despite the pandemic preventing us from honoring our health champions in a formal ceremony, we were able to make a special trip to the Western Slope and to express our gratitude for a few legislators committed to fighting for Coloradans health.

Thank you to our health champions for your commitment to Coloradans health.

Healthy Air and Water Colorado



Healthy Air and Water Colorado, fondly referred to as “HAWC”, is Healthier Colorado’s sister organization. HAWC, and its advocacy arm, HAWC Action, advances public policy that focuses exclusively on the growing public health threats posed by climate change. 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 the rest of 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.

HAWC Statewide Legislative Work

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic laid bare inequities across Colorado and across the world. The health harms of climate change were exposed more than ever. Communities that were already faced with the disproportionate impacts of climate change saw much higher mortality rates from the COVID-19 infection. 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, people of color, children and folks with lower income.

HAWC worked in partnership with other groups to advance legislation to hold accountable the state’s worst air and water polluters. Even through the pandemic, a package of bills advanced and became law aimed at requiring polluters to pay larger fines for repeated violations, requiring clear notice to nearby communities when a toxic emission has occurred and enhancing emissions monitoring at the state level. The fight for climate justice needs trusted messengers to hold leaders and lawmakers accountable. Health professionals can speak to the real human impacts of climate change. As trusted messengers they can be a critical voice in climate discussions. Our network





of health professionals drove 280 emails to ensure passage of these important bills.

HB20-1143

Concerning additional public health protections regarding alleged environmental violations, and in connection therewith, raising the maximum fines for air quality and water quality violations

HB20-1265

Concerning increased public protections from emissions of air toxics

SB 20-204

Concerning the provision of additional resources to protect air quality, and, in connection therewith, increasing fees, creating the air quality enterprise

“My name is Joan MacAechen and I am a family doctor who has worked with the rural population, including Native Americans, in Southwest Colorado for the past 30 years. I see climate change as a public health crisis due to the increasing levels of ozone and particle pollution which have a detrimental effect on the health of my patients. This pollution puts our residents at considerable health risks, including premature death, low birth weight, asthma attacks, worsening allergies, lung infections, nerve damage, and heart attacks. Our health is at risk and that’s why I’m using my voice to advocate for health focused policy solutions to this climate crisis.”

HAWC Takes Flight

Despite the challenges 2020 presented, HAWC grew our team, expanded our network, and made substantial impacts on the climate fight in Colorado. In the summer of 2020, we hired Sabrina Pacha as the Healthy Air and Water Colorado Manager to grow our network of health professionals and broaden our reach. A few highlights of HAWC’s work include:

Hosted five advocacy trainings



Trained 28 healthcare professional spokespeople



Submitted 2,000+ public comments

to regulatory bodies emphasizing the need for strong rules to protect human health



Met with 22 candidates

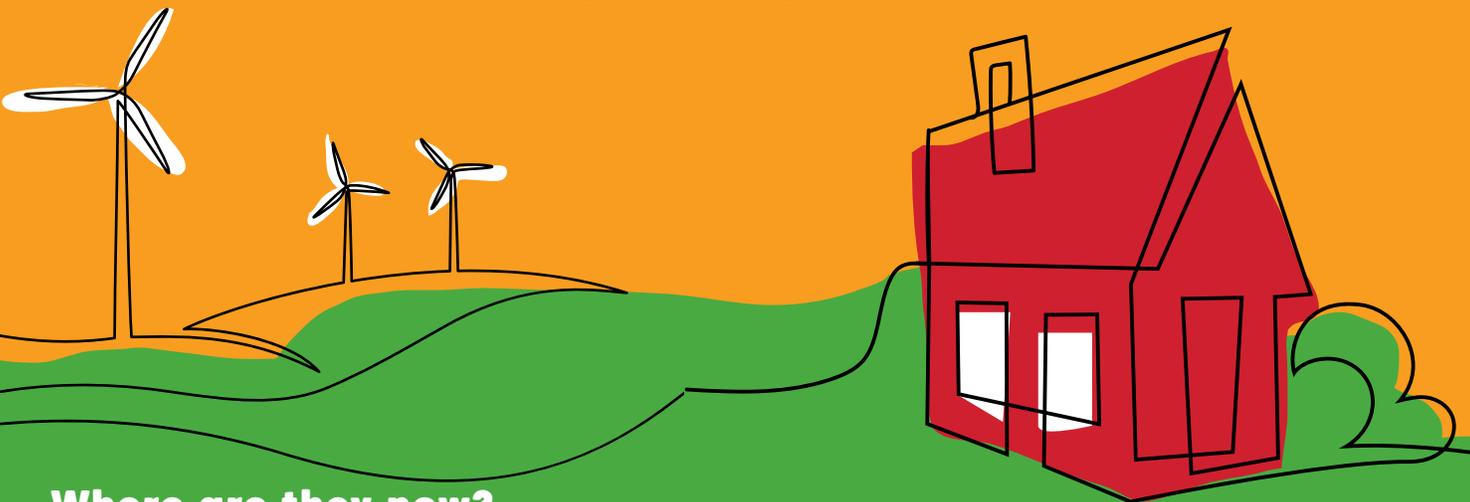
Partnerships in Local Advocacy (PiLA)

PiLA is an acronym for Partnerships in Local Advocacy and is our program for supporting local campaigns – policy change at the city, county, or special district level.

In partnership with local health advocates and community members, we support local campaigns with resources in various forms, including direct financial campaign contributions, in-kind support, or strategic input. Beyond financial support, our assistance can include:

- Guidance on communications, field and political strategy.
- Execution of direct voter contact, such as mail, canvassing, phone outreach, and training for volunteers.
- Technical assistance on maintaining legal compliance

In 2020, Healthier Colorado supported three local ballot measures. Our work on these three campaigns began early in the year and included contributing financial resources, viability polling and more. Due to the pandemic, campaigns were heavily restricted in their voter contact methods and thus we relied on direct mail, digital ads and texting to reach voters. Despite being unable to reach voters face-to-face, we were able to connect with thousands of Denver voters digitally and ensure passage of these ballot measures.



Where are they now?

Our PiLA partners hail from all over the state, and once a campaign is complete we stay connected with those folks to ensure that the work we all set out to do is as successful as we'd hoped. In 2018, we worked alongside Paul Mattson Chief/ Paramedic of the South Park Ambulance District to support a mill levy to ensure the South Park Ambulance District's survival and establish a community paramedic program.

As of June 2021, the district has begun to see all of the success they'd hoped for and more. Check out this message from Paul Mattson on how the South Park Ambulance District is doing today.

✓ **Yes on 2A**

Measure 2A, Climate Action Now, was a .25% Denver sales tax increase to address climate change - the first of its kind in the United States. The measure passed with 63% of the vote. The revenue collected will be invested in 6 categories— renewable energy, transportation, energy efficiency, clean energy jobs, neighborhood programs, and programs that help prepare communities for the changing climate; and 50% of these funds will be dedicated to low-income communities that typically bear the greatest burden of transportation and industrial pollution.



✓ **Yes on 2B**

Measure 2B, Denver Makes a Difference, was a .25% sales tax to fund three main strategies to reduce homelessness through Denver’s Housing Stability Office. Denver voters ensured passage of this measure with 63.5% of the vote. The revenue collected from this sales tax will aid in expanding shelter capacity, building supportive housing, and supporting innovative housing solutions like tiny homes and employing street outreach workers.

✓ **Rangely Fluoride Measure**

In the spring of 2020, a fluoride rollback was attempted in Rangely. We worked alongside a local health advocate to place LTE’s in the local paper, conducted digital outreach and earned some excellent media attention along the way. The CDC has deemed community water fluoridation to be one of the 10 great public health achievements of the 20th century. Local pro-health advocates wanted to ensure that their town was able to fight misinformation and support evidence-based measures for their community’s health.

On April 7th, voters were asked whether or not they want the town to continue to fluoridate the community’s water. With over 70% of the vote, they affirmed Rangely would continue this critical public health practice. Passage of the ballot measure coincidentally garnered our 100th press hit of 2020!

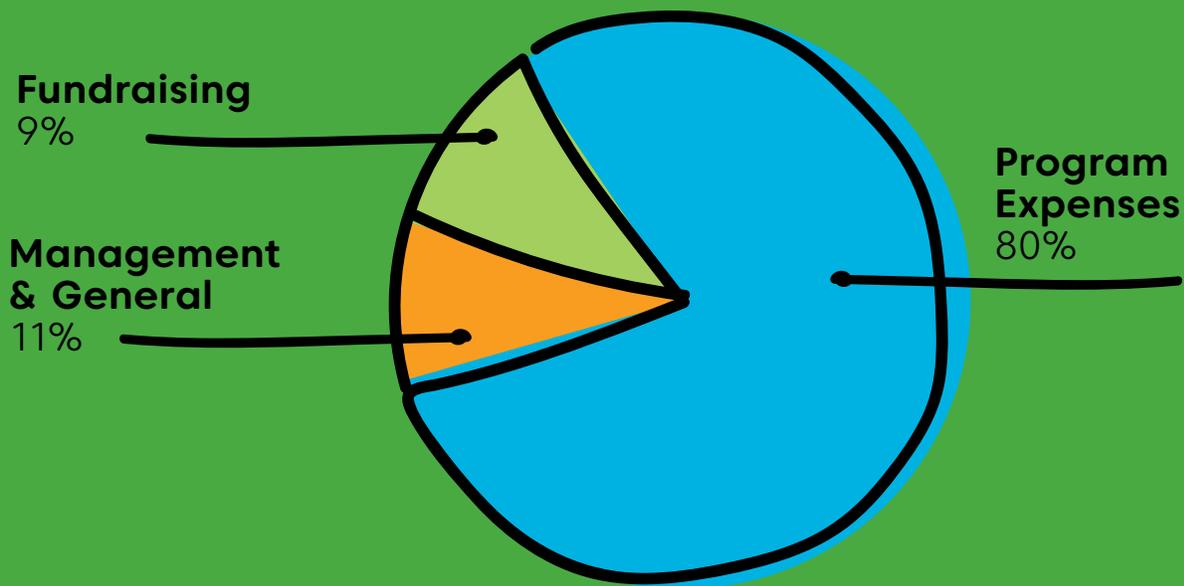
“With the increased Mill Levy we have increased staffing as we construct two new ambulance stations. The Hartsel station is expected to be completed late July. The Jefferson area station starts construction early July with a hoped for completion late December of this year. Each station is designed to have a treatment room for “walk-in” patients. We are also working with Ute Pass to make the space available for behavioral health clinicians to meet with their clients. The assistance provided by you and Healthier Colorado is truly having a very positive impact on healthcare throughout the 1,500 square miles of Colorado that we cover.”

– Paul C. Mattson

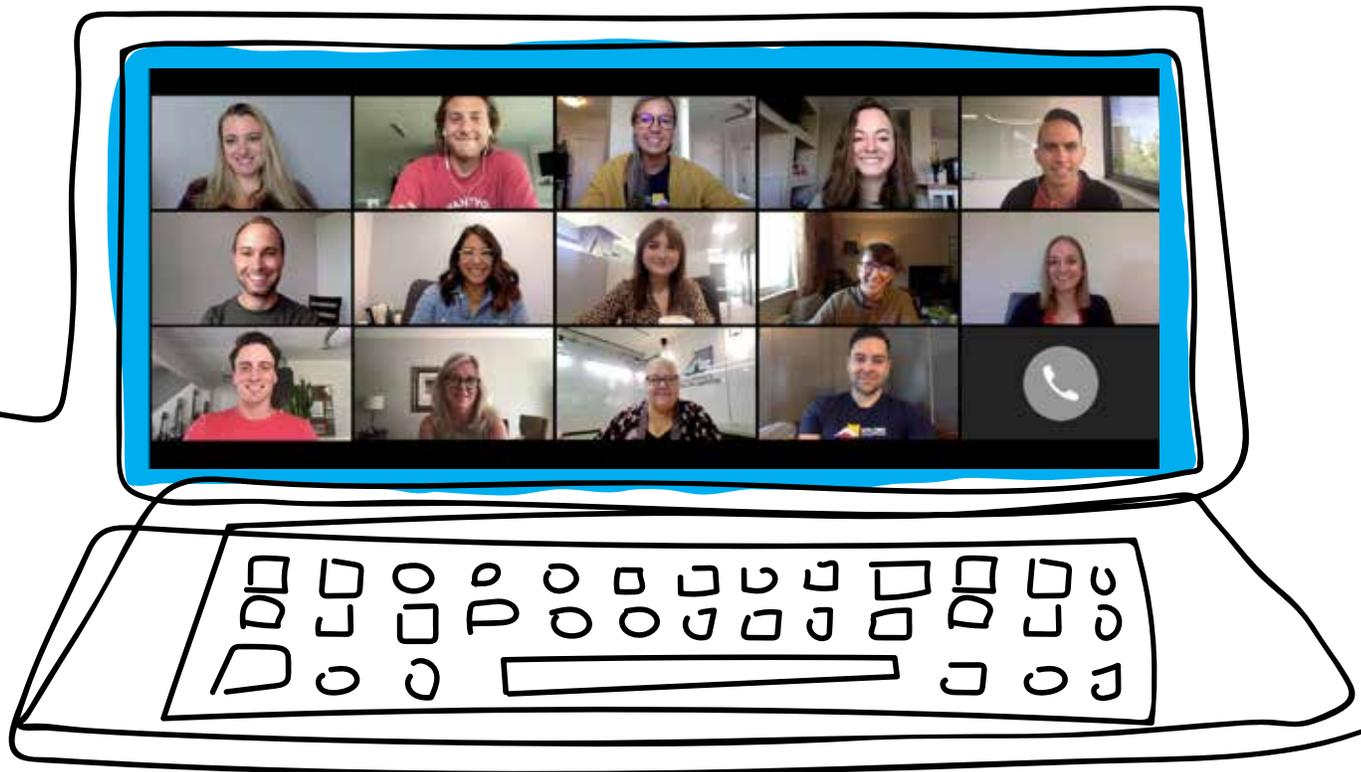
2020 Financials



Expenses



\$ 000s	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restriction	Total
Revenue			
Donations & Grants	\$ 167	\$ 38	\$ 205
Investment Revenue	\$ -	\$ 446	\$ 446
Released from Restriction	\$ 3,167	\$ (3,167)	\$ -
Total Revenue	\$ 3,334	\$ (2,683)	\$ 651
Expenses			
Program	\$ 1,828		\$ 1,828
Management & General	\$ 258		\$ 258
Fundraising	\$ 202		\$ 202
Total Expenses	\$ 2,288		\$ 2,288
Change in Net Assets	\$ 1,046	\$ (2,683)	\$ (1,637)
<i>Net Assets, Beginning of Year</i>	\$ 1,162	\$ 11,674	\$ 12,836
<i>Net Assets, End of Year</i>	\$ 835	\$ 10,364	\$ 11,199



Staff as of June 2021 *alphabetized

Alexis Alltop
Research and Logistics Coordinator

Ashley Barrow
Development Director

Stuart Jenkins
Advocacy Manager

Hillary Jorgensen
Deputy Executive Director

Susanna Mizer
Senior Director of Public Affairs

Sabrina Pacha
HAWC Manager

Kyle Piccola
Senior Director of Communications

Bryan Ramirez
Digital Communications Manager

Michael Ruddock
Policy Manager

Kate Stigberg
Senior Director of Activism

Andrea Stojsavljevic
Policy Manager

Micha Stone
*Community Director,
Colorado's Health Capitol*

Jake Williams
Executive Director

Leadership Board as of June 2021

John Marshall (Chair)
President
Colorado Mesa University

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

Gwen Benevento
Of Counsel
Maven Law Group

Courtney Cuff
Executive Director
State Impact Project

Mike Dino
Senior Policy Advisor
Squire Patton Boggs, LLP

Jim Garcia, MPA
Executive Director
Clínica Tepeyac

Pete Maysmith
Senior Vice President of Campaigns
League of Conservation Voters

Jayson Sime
Founder
Right to Shine LLC

Karl Nieschburg
Compliance Officer
Prowers Medical Center

The Fund for a Healthier Colorado

2020 Annual Report



Building the Nation's First Collaborative Shared Space for Health and Wellbeing Nonprofits

Taking on big challenges is in our nature here at TFHC. 2020 was no exception. On April 7th, just two weeks after a global pandemic shut down the country, we signed a lease on a 27,000 square foot space that would become Colorado's Health Capitol. To some, signing a ten year lease in the middle of an economic collapse might seem too big a risk. We saw the opportunity to finally make our dreams of a one-of-a-kind collaborative workspace for health and wellbeing nonprofits come true.

We initially broke ground in July and the construction team got right to work making our vision a reality. We envisioned a space that represented the unique landscapes and



cultures across Colorado. With this in mind, we consulted folks hailing from all parts of the state on the design of the building and the region-based art that we planned to incorporate throughout the space. The space is divided into five regions meant to represent our home state. These include:

- Mesa Mues
- Four Corners Corner
- Rocky Slalom
- Prairie Rows
- Sangre De Christos Corner



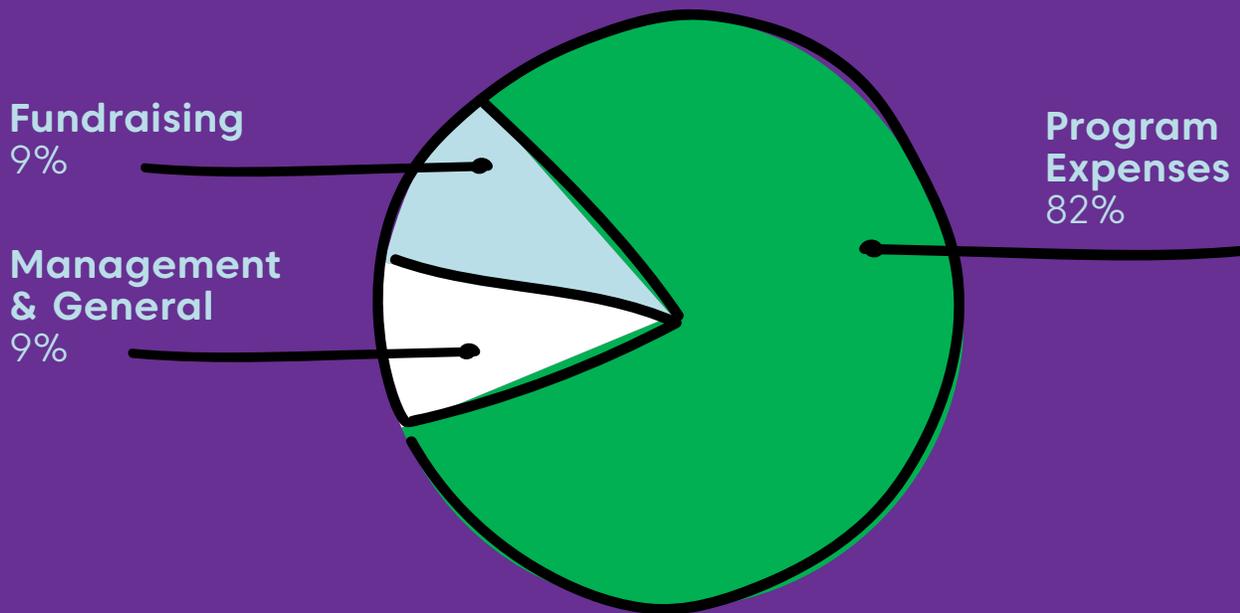
Unsurprisingly the pandemic presented challenges with permitting and construction delays and construction of the Health Capitol would not be completed until 2021. Despite the delays the TFHC staff and our tenant partners were eager to plan our inaugural rounds of programming and prepare to connect in person once again.



The Fund for a Healthier Colorado

2020 Financials

Expenses



\$ 000s	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restriction	Total
Revenue			
Donations & Grants	\$ 830	\$ 730	\$ 1,560
Building sponsorships	\$ 305		\$ 305
Contract Revenue	\$ 33	\$ -	\$ 33
Released from Restrictions	\$ 834	\$ (834)	\$ -
Total Revenue	\$ 2,002	\$ (104)	\$ 1,898
Expenses			
Program	\$ 875		\$ 875
Management & General	\$ 97		\$ 97
Fundraising	\$ 97		\$ 97
Total Expenses	\$ 1,069		\$ 1,069
Change in Net Assets	\$ 933	\$ (104)	\$ 829
<i>Net Assets, Beginning of Year</i>	<i>\$ (245)</i>	<i>\$ 366</i>	<i>\$ 121</i>
<i>Net Assets, End of Year</i>	<i>\$ 689</i>	<i>\$ 262</i>	<i>\$ 951</i>

Leadership

Board as of June 2021

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

Molly Pereira
Associate Executive Director
The Colorado Dental Association



“In 2020, we helped give voice to Coloradans through our polling and research on their experience during the pandemic, all while we were busy building a new home in the Health Capitol in which non-profits could thrive when the pandemic was over.”

– Mike Dino, TFHC Board Chair





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