



**Reproductive Health Policy Statement**  
**February, 2017**

Caring for Colorado Foundation supports access to comprehensive and evidence-based reproductive health services so women and men can make informed decisions about their health and well-being. We recognize reproductive health services and education as essential components of quality health care for individuals and their families.

We believe that all Coloradans should have access to affordable, evidence-based, and effective reproductive health services of their choice, regardless of race, ethnicity, geographic location and identity.

Caring for Colorado Foundation actively supports, through leadership, convening and monetary investments, efforts to expand access to and improve the quality of essential reproductive health services, with focused efforts to support access to effective contraceptive methods, comprehensive sexual health education and family planning advocacy.

Access to comprehensive and evidence-based reproductive health services can have a multigenerational health impact and provides a number of benefits to individuals, their families and their communities. When individuals, and in particular women, have accurate information and fewer barriers to care, health outcomes are better.

Longer-term and community benefits of reproductive health services can include:

- Reducing unintended pregnancies;
- Reducing the incidence and prevalence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and related rates of cancer and infertility;
- Reducing pre-term births and infant mortality;
- Improving educational attainment;
- Improving health equity;
- Improving mental health;
- Serving as an opportunity to connect individuals to additional health services; and,
- Helping to address child/family poverty and other important determinants of health and well-being.