



FOCUS AREA: PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY AND SYSTEMS CHANGE RESPONSIVE GRANTMAKING

Children are more likely to thrive when caregivers, families and communities experience opportunities for health and well-being, and we want all children to be happy, healthy and thriving. We believe children and families deserve equitable access to systems of support. Public policy advocacy can be used to promote justice and equity and achieve the greatest good for the greatest number of people in Colorado.

PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY AND SYSTEMS CHANGE – STRATEGIES

Caring for Colorado responsively funds public policy advocacy at local, county and state levels to support efforts that align with our goals in Healthy Beginnings, Healthy Youth and Strong and Resilient Families. Our public policy advocacy and systems change priorities include opportunities to:

- Strengthen families and communities to ensure children are safe and that their physical, emotional and cognitive needs are met.
- Grow programs, services and investments in the behavioral health of Colorado’s children and their caregivers.
- Create access to and strengthen safety-net and public benefit programs, such as health coverage, food and housing assistance, income supports and tax credits, paid leave and child care subsidies.
- Ensure comprehensive reproductive and sexual health services are accessible, affordable and culturally responsive.
- Address economic and racial inequity.
- Solve for Colorado’s fiscal constraints to create greater investment in the health, social and education systems.

Public policy advocacy funding can support general operating, capacity building, network and coalition building, research and analysis, public education, policy implementation engagement and monitoring, leadership development, polling, nonpartisan voter education, regulatory efforts, and, in some cases, limited lobbying.

Efforts that focus on children, youth and families experiencing systemic barriers to health and well-being in rural, urban and frontier communities are our priority. We seek to fund local- and state-level organizations that center community voice, engagement, feedback and decision-making.