

Honoring Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights – Position Statement

Introduction and Background

While Caring for Colorado Foundation has supported access to reproductive health services since its inception, over the past few years, we have increased our funding in reproductive health and assumed a leadership role among Colorado's philanthropic community in this space. This has prompted a need for clarification on CFC's position as it relates to reproductive health services. Additionally, we would like to be more inclusive and clearer in our stance as it relates to the availability and comprehensiveness of reproductive and sexual health services for all people in Colorado.

Alignment with Caring for Colorado Foundation's Purpose, Values and/or Focus Areas

Caring for Colorado's vision is that Colorado's children and families are happy, healthy and thriving. Our purpose is to create equity in health, well-being and opportunity for Colorado's children and families.

Sexual and reproductive rights are integral to human rights. As Caring for Colorado works to realize our purpose, we must recognize the systemic inequities related to sexism, racism, homophobia, laws, economics and sociocultural context that do not allow all people to have bodily autonomy.

Equity in sexual and reproductive health is directly tied to children, youth and adults having access to well-being and opportunity, and is important across the lifespan. It is also a particularly important aspect of normal adolescent development that encompasses biological sex, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, sexual behavior and reproduction. Young people's well-being is acutely tied to a wide range of age-appropriate educational and clinical services that promote positive sexual development and are tailored to their needs.

Caring for Colorado Foundation's Position

- We believe all people in Colorado have the right to maintain personal bodily autonomy.
- We support access to comprehensive, developmentally appropriate, evidence-based, confidential, safe and medically accurate sexual and reproductive health information and services for all people in Colorado regardless of race, religious belief, ability, gender identity and sexual orientation. This includes access to information that is non-coercive, accurate, culturally responsive, and in support of an individual's decisions about health and well-being throughout their lifetime.
- We recognize sexual and reproductive health services, education and rights as a fundamental component of an individual's overall physical, emotional and social well-being.
- We acknowledge the larger context of inequity in reproductive health where people do not have equitable access and their decisions and futures are not equally respected, particularly for women of color, indigenous women, and transgender people.

- We believe people who may get pregnant have the right to determine whether and when to become pregnant, whether and when to use contraception, and whether and when to continue a pregnancy.
- We believe sexual and reproductive health services need to be inclusive and affirming of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex people.

Potential Use of this Statement

Caring for Colorado actively supports, through leadership, convening and investments, efforts to expand access to and improve the quality of essential reproductive and sexual health information and services for all people in Colorado. This includes focused efforts to support access to all contraceptive methods, comprehensive, culturally responsive and medically accurate sexual health education, and family planning advocacy.

The foundation will recognize this position on sexual and reproductive health and rights in public comments and factor this position into decisions to join partnerships and/or collective actions, when weighing in on public policy, when making investment decisions and when developing strategies.

References

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https://www.adolescenthealth.org/SAHM_Main/media/Advocacy/Positions/Apr-14-Sexual-Repro-Health.pdf