

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Protect and Expand Contraceptive Access

The Protect and Expand Contraceptive Access Funding Opportunity is for clinics and local health agencies with contraceptive care programs in Colorado that want to improve their care delivery, operational systems, and influence broader policy change for reproductive equity.

Key Information

PURPOSE: Increase access to person-centered contraceptive care.

OPEN TO: Colorado-based primary care safety net clinics, including Federally Qualified Health Centers, independent safety net clinics, school-based health centers, and local health agencies with contraceptive care programs.

GRANT AMOUNT: Up to \$250,000 (\$75,000–\$100,000 on average) over two years.

GRANT EXPECTATIONS: Pursue a clinic or agency-based effort to improve contraceptive care and participate in a learning community with other funded organizations.

DEADLINES: Intent to Apply due by April 19, 2023 by 5pm
Application due by April 26, 2023 by 5pm

INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR:

A pre-recorded informational webinar will be posted on March 1. The recorded webinar will be available on the **Caring for Colorado website**.

Q/A SESSION AND OFFICE HOURS:

Q/A SESSION: ReproCollab staff will hold a Q/A session on March 9 from 12 – 1 pm. Potential applicants with general questions are encouraged to attend. **Please register here.**

OFFICE HOURS: ReproCollab staff will hold limited office hours from March 10 until the grant deadline for those with specific questions not addressed in the webinar or Q&A session. **Please register via Calendly** for a 20-minute conversation.

HOW TO APPLY: For details on how to apply visit the **Caring for Colorado website**.

Overview

Built on prior initiatives to increase access to person-centered contraceptive care (**Colorado Contraceptive Access Change Project** and **S+RIVE**) this funding opportunity is designed to acknowledge and work within limitations facing the health care and public health sectors to advance the critical work of reproductive equity. Specifically, it will support safety net clinics and local health agencies with funding for up to 24 months as they respond to the ongoing and urgent need for equitable access to contraceptive care. Support includes grant funding to address clinic and agency-specific gaps or barriers, technical assistance and coaching from a reproductive health care delivery expert, and a learning community of grantees to address common concerns and identify and solve for policy or regulatory barriers. A Program Implementation Partner with expertise in reproductive health equity will lead the technical assistance and learning community.

Clinics and agencies will identify and address barriers to contraceptive access faced by one or more of ReproCollab's priority populations:

- Black, Latinx, and Indigenous people
- People in rural and frontier communities
- LGBTQIA people
- People who are undocumented, asylees and/or refugees
- People living on low incomes and facing financial barriers to care
- Young people

Intended outcomes

Clinics

- **Patient level:** Increase the number of women and gender-diverse individuals receiving person-centered, culturally-responsive contraceptive counseling and care.
- **Provider level:** Increase the number of providers with improved competencies in evidence-based contraceptive counseling and care.

- **Institutional level:** Improve clinic systems and operations to support person-centered contraceptive counseling and care access.

System level

Through focused work within the learning community, identify system barriers to contraceptive access. Work with health policy experts and government representatives to identify solutions for policy, regulatory, or financial barriers to care.

EXAMPLES OF OPPORTUNITIES

The table below shows examples of different opportunities, including identifying potential actions for clinic applicants. It also lays out the role of the Program Implementation Partner in the overall effort.

Strategic Opportunities	Clinic Role	Program Implementation Partner Role
Prioritize Contraceptive Care Quality Improvement Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Leverage quality improvement capacity to improve access to contraceptive services. ● Implement the Interpersonal Quality of Family Planning Care balancing measures to foster improvement in patient experience. ● Improve workflows to ensure front desk and clinical support staff have clear roles in patient care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Share lessons from the Colorado Contraceptive Access Change Project (CCACP) within the community of practice. ● Conduct ongoing monitoring of CCACP performance measures. ● Establish mentorship opportunities with previous learning community participants to share strategies.
Build a Trained and Competent Healthcare Provider Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establish systems within clinics to ensure ongoing training to provide comprehensive contraceptive care. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify training programs for comprehensive contraceptive care as a resource to interested clinics. ● Centralize a set of resources for clinics related to clinic system policies, protocols, and job aids.
Tackle Disparities by Addressing Implicit Bias and Promoting Reproductive Justice in the Healthcare Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Participate in a learning community that includes training in implicit bias and reproductive justice concepts. ● Apply reproductive justice principles to interpersonal interactions, organizational behavior, systems, and policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lead training in implicit bias and reproductive justice concepts. ● Centralize a set of resources for clinics and agencies related to system policies, protocols, and job aids.
Identify Innovative Approaches to Improve/ Increase Person-Centered Contraceptive Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We are interested in healthcare leaders' insights, given their ongoing work to increase contraceptive access. If you have an idea not reflected here, contact the ReproCollab staff to explore the opportunity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Create space in the learning community to elevate emerging barriers and innovative solutions to contraceptive access.
Data-Guided Decision Making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Create standard documentation of contraceptive care via electronic health records (EHRs). ● Utilize data to identify inequities and guide quality improvement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establish a working group within the learning community focused on EHR standardization.

Application Details

Eligibility

- Colorado-based primary care safety net clinics are eligible to apply. This can include Federally Qualified Health Centers, independent safety net clinics, or school-based health centers. Clinics must serve 50% or more people on Medicaid and/or uninsured *OR* be in a contraceptive care desert.
- Local health agencies with existing contraceptive care programs, such as Title X, are eligible to apply.
- Clinics must currently provide contraceptive care and be interested in improving this service.
- Current Caring for Colorado grantees are eligible to apply.
- Past participants in the Colorado Contraceptive Access Change Project are eligible, as are first-time applicants to ReproCollab.
- Partnerships between primary care clinics and local health agencies are encouraged.

Grant amount

Clinics and agencies can apply for up to \$250,000 over a 24-month project period. The budget must reflect the size and scope of the project. The average grant award will range from \$75,000-\$100,000. The average grant award for a partnership application or multi-site agency will range from \$150,000-\$200,000.

Grant expectations

Participants will:

Identify a clinic- or agency-level project with a project lead and team-based approach. Team members should inform and advance system changes and serve as primary liaisons over the course of the grant. Teams should involve roles that are most relevant to the proposed project. This includes staff focused on:

- Operations
- Finance
- Health care delivery
- Patient education/navigation
- Administration / Leadership

Team members will engage fully in the learning community (described below). Additionally, applicants should identify how they will engage key people within their systems to advance their outcomes. Partnership applications should include team members from all partner organizations.

Engage in a Learning Community led by a Program

Implementation Partner. Project teams will engage in the following:

- Monthly calls with a Program Implementation Partner for technical support in achieving grant goals.
- Meetings (*3 virtual meetings and one Denver-based in-person meeting annually*) with other funded organizations to explore issues of shared interest and participate in trainings on reproductive justice and equity. Grantees are expected to complete tasks between meetings, such as, drafting an implementation plan in the first quarter, regular progress reports and feedback loops with the Program Implementation Partner.

Annual convening with a broader community of policy

advocacy nonprofits to develop work plans with policy/advocacy and state leaders that address barriers to equitable reproductive health care access. *One in-person, full-day conference will take place in Denver annually, dates TBD.*

Integrate improvements into internal policies and practices

to support the sustainability of systems changes. Examples include: adapting EHR systems to support pregnancy intention screening; requiring standard training in different facets of contraceptive care for new employees; incorporating implicit bias training for all staff onboarding and human resources practices; developing a system for same-day access to any contraceptive method; identifying and implementing standard billing codes; and establishing a process for measuring and reflecting on patient experience to make necessary improvements.

Participate in an external evaluation, including, at a minimum, basic data collection and project lead interviews.

At the end of the grant period, ReproCollab and participating grantees will have identified promising and innovative solutions to persistent challenges in achieving reproductive health equity. Moreover, clinics, agencies, and policy advocacy nonprofits will have built working relationships to advance policy solutions.

Selection Criteria

ReproCollab will partner with clinics and agencies that have aligned values and are passionate about advancing reproductive equity. Successful applicants will:

Demonstrate a commitment to contraceptive care delivery that is person-centered.

- Identify organizational and systemic gaps or barriers to contraceptive care, specifically, and reproductive health, generally.
- Identify the gaps or barriers the organization plans to address with this grant opportunity.
- Identify clinic and system level outcomes from the work.

Currently provide contraceptive care to ReproCollab's priority groups and want to improve its work in this area.

Priority groups include:

- Black, Latinx, and Indigenous people
- People in rural and frontier communities
- LGBTQIA people
- People who are undocumented, asylees and/or refugees
- People living on low incomes and facing financial barriers to care
- Young people

Describe how the clinic and/or agency will sustain new approaches and learnings from this project.

- Identify how grant-related work will be integrated into clinic systems, policies, and ongoing practices (once the grant term is completed).
- Identify how the clinic and/or agency will measure progress.

Develop a team who will participate in a learning community and champion efforts within their clinic or agency to build lasting change.

- Build a collaborative team to attend monthly technical assistance calls, participate in trainings, and represent the clinic and/or agency at convenings.
- Demonstrate the ability to meet deadlines, complete assignments, engage in project evaluation and communicate regularly with the Program Implementation Partner.
- Ensure the team has the authority and capacity to coordinate efforts across the organization throughout the grant period.

A budget that represents the scope and scale of intended outcomes and integration into clinic systems.

- Clinician time to participate in the project can be part of the budget.

What will we fund

- Project and consulting staff
- Staff time away from clinical care to work on the project
- Technical assistance and training beyond what is offered through this project
- Technical projects, such as EHR upgrades, billing, and coding improvements
- Travel costs associated with required in-person meetings
- Health education costs, such as interpretation and translation services, accessible materials for people with auditory or visual impairments

What we will not fund

- General operating support of the clinic
- Current contraception care services.
- Contraceptives (LARCs, pills, etc.)
- Clinical supplies needed for providing contraceptive care
- Lobbying or political support

Timeline

Funding Opportunity Released and Online Grant Portal Open	March 1, 2023
Q/A Session Register here	March 9, 2023, 12 – 1 pm
Intent to Apply Deadline	April 19, 2023 at 5 pm
Application Deadline	April 26, 2023 at 5 pm
Site Visits	May 3 – June 5, 2023
Grant Notifications	July 7 – July 21, 2023
Grant Start Date	August 1, 2023

Q/A Session

ReproCollab staff will hold a Q/A session on March 9 from 12 – 1 pm. Potential applicants with general questions are encouraged to attend. **Please register here.**

Office Hours

ReproCollab staff will hold limited office hours beginning March 10 for organizations that have specific questions not addressed in the webinar or Q/A session. **Please register via Calendly** for a 20-minute conversation.

For questions regarding this funding opportunity, please email ReproCollab staff at reprocollab@caringforcolorado.org.

RESOURCES

FAQ – Start here to get your questions answered

Colorado Contraceptive Access Change Project 2018–2021 – Download the report

S+RIVE report – Download the report

Glossary – Important terms to know

Power to Decide: Contraceptive Access in Colorado – Download the fact sheet

Background

ReproCollab is a Colorado-based initiative for reproductive equity led by Caring for Colorado Foundation. ReproCollab envisions a Colorado where all people can determine their future; achieve personal, educational, and health goals; and grow their families if and when they choose. Across the reproductive lifespan, people will have what they need regardless of race, gender, location, or other structural and social influences. They can make informed decisions based on information and resources that are culturally responsive and medically accurate. Since 2017, ReproCollab has advanced work to increase access to person-centered contraceptive care, promote reproductive and sexual health education, and advance policy to protect and expand reproductive rights.

ReproCollab's Vision

All Coloradans have the power to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive autonomy, including health, rights, and well-being.

To achieve this, ReproCollab will invest \$7 million over the next three years to:

- 1. Protect and expand contraceptive access.** Improve access to person-centered contraceptive care within Colorado's safety net system.
- 2. Promote community-led solutions in sexual and reproductive health education.** Fund innovative reproductive and sexual health education programs for young people, designed by young people, and in partnership with organizations they know and trust.
- 3. Lead and advocate for reproductive equity.** Leverage community, regulatory, legislative, and philanthropic expertise to create public and fiscal policies that grow investments and advance reproductive equity.

Why Contraceptive Access?

Achieving contraceptive counseling and care that is fully accessible requires addressing complex challenges and seeking innovative solutions. Accessible care should be person-centered, culturally responsive, affordable, confidential, timely, and convenient. Evidence shows that person-centered care results in improved health outcomes. When women and gender-diverse individuals have control of their reproductive choices, they can better realize their future goals.

Colorado safety net clinics and the people they serve face extraordinary challenges that make clinic systems change efforts both difficult and more important than ever. The COVID-19 experience brought a host of consequences for clinics and their patients. Care providers navigated high-risk environments to maintain care, building new workflows to keep themselves and patients safe. Despite changes like a shift to telehealth and

increased coverage from Medicaid expansion, many people did not pursue routine care. The consequences of this delayed care included unplanned pregnancies, an increase in STIs, and underdiagnosis of serious health conditions.

Health care professionals are working to provide high-quality and community-connected care. However, health care delivery systems are experiencing a shortage of trained providers, a limited range of contraceptive methods, prohibitive financing, limited service hours or locations, and a lack of communication with patients about available services constrain their efforts. As a result, access is still out of reach for too many people. To drive progress, we need to understand and face these barriers with creativity and determination, guided by the insights of those experiencing them.

About Caring for Colorado

Caring for Colorado works with communities to catalyze and accelerate change to create equity in health, well-being and opportunity for Colorado's children and families. We believe that Colorado prospers when **all** our children, youth and families thrive. We intentionally direct our resources to those denied opportunity in our society. We stand together with communities to create policies, environments and systems that support the goal that **every** child in Colorado has love, stability, support and opportunity. To learn more visit www.caringforcolorado.org.

About ReproCollab

ReproCollab is a collaborative program, led by Caring for Colorado and funded by The Colorado Health Foundation, The Colorado Trust, Craig-Scheckman Family Foundation, and Caring for Colorado. ReproCollab is working to advance the movement for sexual and reproductive equity across Colorado. For more about this initiative, visit www.reprocollab.org.

INITIATIVE PARTNERS



The Colorado Health Foundation™



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