FUNDING PRIORITIES—A ROAD TO BETTER HEALTH
Caring for Colorado is a private, non-profit grantmaking foundation dedicated to improving the health and health care of the people of Colorado. The Foundation was created in 1999 from the proceeds of the sale of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Colorado. Our Board of Directors is appointed by the Governor of Colorado.

Caring for Colorado’s mission is to promote health and improve health care for the people of Colorado. As a statewide funder, we serve all Coloradans, yet our programs are focused on the most vulnerable — those facing disproportionate barriers in accessing health care services and achieving optimal health.

Caring for Colorado uses its human and financial resources to achieve its mission. Each year we provide significant grant funding and staff engagement to support activities aligned with our mission and strategic funding priorities.

We are committed to improving health systems, focusing on population health and prevention, and working to solve the most pressing health needs of vulnerable and underserved populations in our state. We serve as a catalyst, building consensus and coalitions to create sustainable health system improvements.

Caring for Colorado’s funding priorities have been developed and refined over the years through active community input. This is sought regularly at foundation-sponsored community meetings and in our work with partners, grantees and other health funders in the state. Our priorities are designed to address critical health needs facing Coloradans. In 2014, the Caring for Colorado Board of Directors approved a strategic plan, focusing the foundation's activities into five major areas:

- Oral Health
- Mental Health
- Healthy Children and Youth
- Community Health
- Health Care Workforce

Our vision, goals and priorities for each area are detailed on the pages that follow.
TEN YEAR VISION:
Dental disease in Colorado’s children is significantly reduced. Colorado has an expanded oral health workforce developed to improve access to care for underserved populations.

Goal 1: Improve access to preventive oral health care and community-based dental services.

PRIORITIES:
Prevention — Increase the availability of oral disease prevention programs targeted to children and adolescents. Funding interests:
• School-based dental sealant programs
• Co-location of preventive dental services with medical care
• Prevention programs targeted to pregnant women and children up to 5 years of age

Access To Care — Strengthen and expand the oral health safety net so that traditionally underserved populations are able to access quality, affordable care. Funding interests:
• Dental clinic operations including staff, equipment and supplies
• Capital for dental clinic expansions, renovations, or the development of new points of care
• Technical assistance to improve dental clinic operations and sustainability

Policy — Develop local and state oral health policies to promote access to care for underserved populations.
Goal 2: Develop new and innovative oral health delivery systems to address workforce shortages.

PRIORITIES:

“Virtual Dental Home” — Develop and test the Virtual Dental Home Program to determine the financial and operational feasibility and scalability of the model for Colorado. CFC will fund this project as a special initiative, via a separate funding opportunity.

New Models of Care — Explore, develop and promote new models of oral health care that address the needs of the underserved. Funding interests:

• Projects that utilize the current workforce differently
• Projects that engage other health professions (medical, public health, nursing) to expand access to preventive care for underserved populations
TEN YEAR VISION:
80% of Coloradans have access to comprehensive care that integrates physical and behavioral health.

Goal 1: Increase access to behavioral health services through the integration of physical and behavioral health care.

PRIORITIES:
Access To Care — Increase the availability of integrated care in Colorado with a focus on underserved populations and communities. Funding interests:
• Team-based, integrated behavioral and physical health care
• Infrastructure enhancements and partnerships to support innovative, integrated care delivery models in rural and frontier communities and for underserved populations (including tele-health)

Quality Improvement — Develop high-quality integrated care delivery models. Funding interests:
• Technical assistance and consultation to transition and improve care delivery
• Assessment and evaluation of integrated care, at the delivery site, to measure and improve efficacy

Sustainability — Support policies and practices to seed and sustain the delivery of integrated care. Funding interests:
• Advocacy and policy development for payment models to support integrated care
• Evaluation to identify and share lessons learned in sustaining integrated care
Goal 2: Increase the availability of community-based mental health programs for underserved populations.

PRIORITIES:
Access To Care — Support mental health programs that target underserved populations, including veterans, adolescents, seniors and individuals with cultural barriers to care. Funding interests:
• Outreach and case management for special populations
• Efforts to increase the availability of evidence-based mental health services for underserved populations

Sustainability — Assist safety net mental health providers to strengthen operations, clinical care delivery and financial sustainability. CFC will fund:
• Focused technical assistance to enhance and improve operational, clinical and/or financial capacity
TEN YEAR VISION:
Every Colorado community has the health care infrastructure and support services necessary to meet the basic health, mental health and oral health needs of its residents.

Goal 1: Expand and strengthen the capacity of the health care delivery system in high-need, underserved communities.

PRIORITIES:
Safety Net — Ensure that communities have the infrastructure necessary to meet the health care needs of its residents. Funding interests:
• Construction and capital improvements
• Bridge funding to support expanded service capacity
• Medical equipment
• Tele-health networks

Sustainability — Strengthen the capacity of safety net providers. Funding interests:
• Technical assistance to build strategic, financial and operational resources
• Collaborations and service models which promote sustainability and increased service capacity
• Feasibility studies aimed at identifying if health care service expansions are practical given funding and community dynamics

Policy and Advocacy — Improve the health care delivery system, through educational, policy and advocacy efforts
Goal 2: Ensure that people are able to access health care by reducing barriers to care.

Caring for Colorado is interested in building community capacity to reduce barriers to care and to improve access for underserved and vulnerable populations. The Foundation will help to build sustainable community systems to connect people to care. Funding in this area is time-limited and must meet the following criteria:

• Meets a documented need within the community
• Works to strengthen systems at the local and/or state level
• Leverages other resources
• Measures outcomes
• Demonstrates cultural and linguistic competence

PRIORITIES:

Transportation — Medical transportation programs, with an emphasis on rural communities.

Translation/Interpretation — Translation/interpretation services within safety net clinics to ensure that care is patient centered.

Navigation — Efforts to help people with complex health needs, or cultural barriers to care, navigate the health care system.

Health Education — Evidence-based health education programs that are aimed at preventing disease and promoting health.
HEALTHY CHILDREN & YOUTH

TEN YEAR VISION:
• Colorado’s children experience healthy social and emotional development
• Mental health knowledge and expertise is integrated into systems and programs serving children and families
• Children in high risk situations have access to culturally relevant, evidence-based prevention and wellness promotion practices for themselves and their families

Goal 1: Catalyze communities to build comprehensive systems and services to promote the social and emotional development of young children.

PRIORITIES:
“Project Launch” — Implementation of a multi-year, multi-community effort to strengthen local and state systems focused on young children’s mental health, and social and emotional development. This will be done in partnership with other Colorado foundations, with funding targeted to communities, programs and systems serving families in high-risk situations. CFC will fund this project as a special initiative, via a separate funding opportunity.

Goal 2: Promote children’s social, emotional and physical development.

Health Promotion — Foster and encourage children’s optimal social, emotional and physical development through targeted investments. Funding interests:
• Development of comprehensive, integrated family-centered health care homes for children
• Implementation of proven and promising home-visitation and mental health consultation models for young children and their families/caregivers
• Development of an early childhood mental health workforce trained to work in integrated care and community-based settings
• Efforts to improve maternal and child health outcomes
Goal 3: Improve access to high quality school-based health services for children and adolescents.

PRIORITIES:

Access To Care — Strengthen the capacity and sustainability of school-based health services. Funding interests:
- Time-limited, bridge funding to seed and/or expand health care services
- Capital improvements
- Evidence-based health education programming
- Technical assistance to help improve the operational capacity of school-based health programs, including mergers, fund-raising, business planning, operational assessments and quality improvement

Behavioral Health — Develop and strengthen behavioral health programming within schools and school-based health centers. Funding Interests:
- Adoption of evidence-based programs
- Training and consultation to integrate behavioral health services into health center programs and operations
TEN YEAR VISION:
Recruit, train and retain a high-quality health care workforce serving underserved Colorado communities.

Goal: Increase the racial, ethnic, cultural and geographic diversity of the health care workforce.

PRIORITIES:
Health Professional Training — Support health professional training programs in recruiting, retaining and graduating students from diverse backgrounds.

Community College Programs — Support community college programs that work to attract and retain non-traditional, rural and minority students into health professions.
To realize our mission, we:

• Support strategies and innovations to reduce health disparities in our state
• Work to develop a new generation of healthy Coloradans, focusing on children and the opportunities to help them achieve optimal health for a lifetime
• Ensure that underserved populations (rural, low-income, culturally isolated) have access to quality and affordable health care
• Build and strengthen local and state health systems to produce long-term benefits and improved health outcomes for individuals and communities
• Foster community-based collaboration and partnerships
• Serve as an informed convener and educator

We partner with agencies, organizations and leaders who have:

• Strong connections and credibility within communities
• Expertise and strengths in delivering evidence-based programs and services
• The ability to evaluate and report outcomes
• Operational and financial stability
• The capacity to leverage resources and partnerships to achieve community health goals

Get Involved — To learn more about Caring for Colorado funding priorities or to discuss your program needs, contact a Program Officer at 720-524-0770. We strongly encourage phone calls prior to applying to ensure that funding requests are aligned with the foundation’s priorities and guidelines.

The Caring for Colorado grant application and application deadlines can be accessed at www.caringforcolorado.org.
FUNDING PRIORITIES
2015 – 2018
FUNDING PRIORITIES 2015 – 2018