



COLORADO BLUEPRINT
TO END HUNGER

FOUR-YEAR IMPACT REPORT



2019 - 2023

*Working for a Colorado where everyone who lives here can access the food
they choose, where they want it, and when they need it*

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Published December 2023



Fresh produce from a community garden in Denver for donation to a local food pantry (photo by Michelle Ray)

LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Dear Friends,

It's inspiring to see people from all over Colorado – from different communities, experiences, and organizations – come together and work collaboratively to transform our food systems through community engagement and investments, policy and advocacy, data and evaluation, and public awareness and political will. That is the **power of collective impact**: creating space and bringing people together in a structured way to advance equity and achieve social and systems-level change through learning, alignment, and integration of actions. And, by using this model, we're **moving closer to a Colorado where everyone who lives here can access the food they choose, where they want it, and when they need it.**

The Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger began as an idea in 2016, realized as a roadmap in 2018, and transformed into a collective impact organization in 2019 – and it has **advanced towards the original goals and evolved with its statewide network of partners since then.**

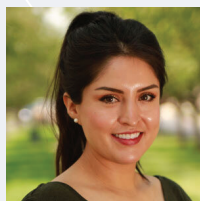
In this report that encompasses the first four years of our efforts, you'll find a comprehensive overview of our collaborative journey thus far, the collective progress we have made in achieving our goals, and the dedicated individuals and organizations who have made it all possible.

Though we wish to **thank every individual and organization who has helped get the Blueprint where it is today**, there are far too many to include in this report. We would be remiss not to give special recognition to The Colorado Health Foundation for funding this ambitious project during its first five years, along with those who shepherded the Blueprint's development, including the entire steering committee and principal consultants. We also want to share our deep appreciation for Erin Ulric who led the Blueprint as its first director and established the program office, in addition to all other program office staff and Governing Council members for their time, energy, and enthusiasm in helping advance the Blueprint's shared vision and goals. (See our "special thanks" section on pages 24 - 25 for more acknowledgments.)

We are immensely grateful for your ongoing support in driving forward the Blueprint's collective impact work, but more importantly, we **applaud the work you're doing every day** to help people access the food they need to thrive in our Colorado communities.

Let's continue to work together to make a meaningful impact that creates a **brighter, more equitable, and well-fed future for all.**

Warm regards,



Dolores Ramirez
Executive Director of Vision



Joël McClurg
Executive Director of Integration



COLORADO BLUEPRINT **TO END HUNGER**

OUR PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

*Working towards a Colorado where everyone who lives here
can access the food they choose, where they want it,
and when they need it*



HOW IT ALL BEGAN

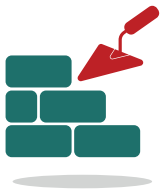
The Blueprint began as a **five-year plan to end hunger for all Coloradans**. It was developed and launched, with funding from The Colorado Health Foundation, by individuals and organizations working on or experiencing hunger in their own homes and Colorado communities.

In late spring of 2017, the Foundation convened nearly 100 key stakeholders to examine the challenges of hunger in Colorado and to develop solutions. Attendees agreed that Colorado needed a road map to achieve the goal of a hunger-free state. During that summer and fall, a steering committee of more than 35 stakeholders – those working to end hunger and/or living with hunger – provided leadership to create and advance an actionable plan for the state. The Colorado Blueprint to End Hunger, with five key goals, was unveiled in early 2018.

During the development process, it became clear that the plan's structure needed to **allow inclusivity, shared leadership, strengths-based and authentic collaboration, broad-based participation, and collective ownership** within an alliance or coalition model. It also was necessary to have centralized staffing and resources to ensure alignment, to focus on community engagement, and to move priorities into actionable wins.

With the Trailhead Institute serving as its fiscal sponsor, the Blueprint hired its first director and staff in 2019. They led the foundational work, alongside partners, with elements now central to the Blueprint's framework.

CENTRAL FRAMEWORK ELEMENTS



Building and maintaining an **infrastructure to support organizations** doing the work for more equitable food systems



Supporting **ongoing state policy change** through coalition organizing, advocacy, and communications resources



Creating and maintaining a **data and evaluation framework** for monitoring progress on food access



Engaging and supporting **individuals with living or lived experience** in the food equity space

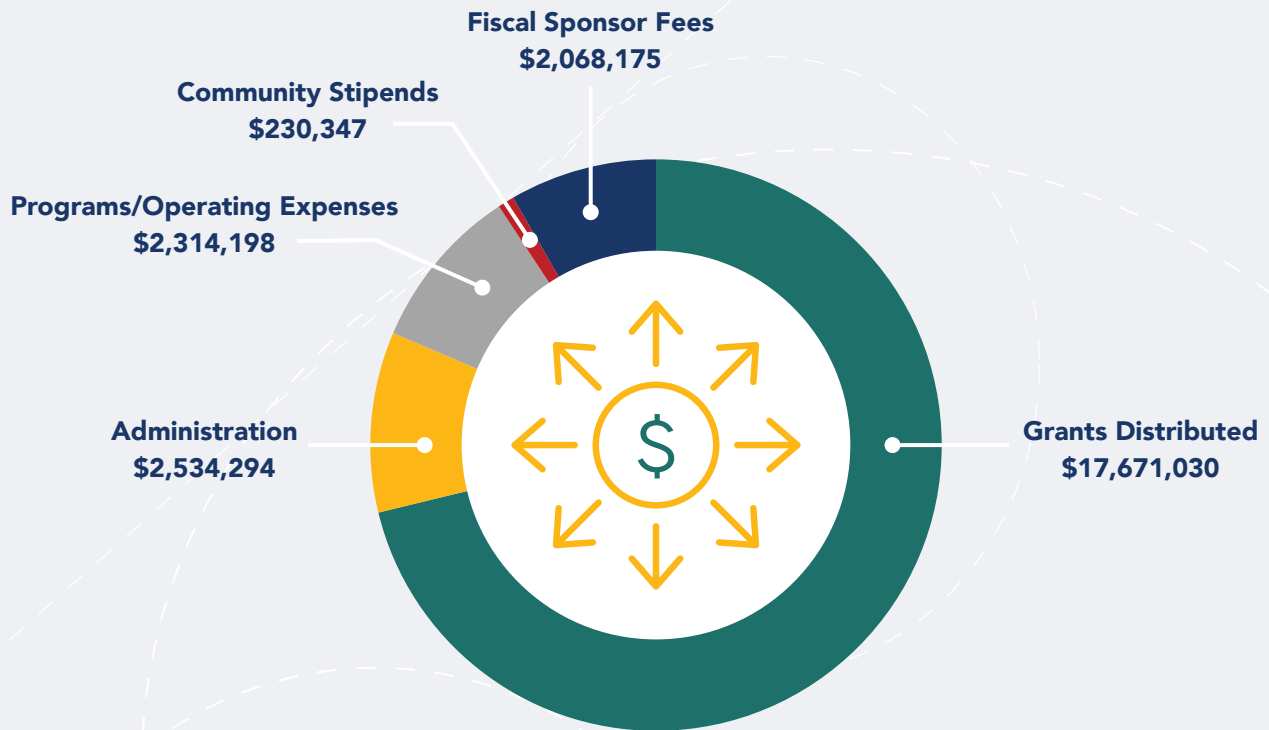


Developing a platform to **help shift public understanding of issues** that contribute to hunger and individuals directly impacted

OUR FINANCIALS

This budget for the Blueprint covers Fiscal Years 2019 - 2023 (from October 1 - September 31 of each year), except for "revenues," which does encompass funding for the full five years through 2024.

Total Expenditures:
\$24,818,044



Total Revenue:
\$27,500,599



Food to Power's Hillside Hub farm in southeast Colorado Springs (photo by Michelle Ray)

WHERE WE ARE NOW

What started as a multi-year plan has **evolved into a statewide network of partners seeking to transform our food systems**. People from different parts of the state, organizations, and experiences are collaboratively addressing hunger across Colorado through community engagement and investments, policy and advocacy, data and evaluation, and public awareness and political will.

As a collective impact organization, the Blueprint acts as a **hub for network partners** working to address hunger in Colorado communities, with equity incorporated throughout our collaborative work. In our role as a convener, facilitator, and connector, we **bring people together to create social and systems-level change around hunger and food access**. We can only achieve this by shifting policies, practices, power dynamics, mindsets, and flow of funding and other resources to community-focused organizations doing the local work, day in and day out.

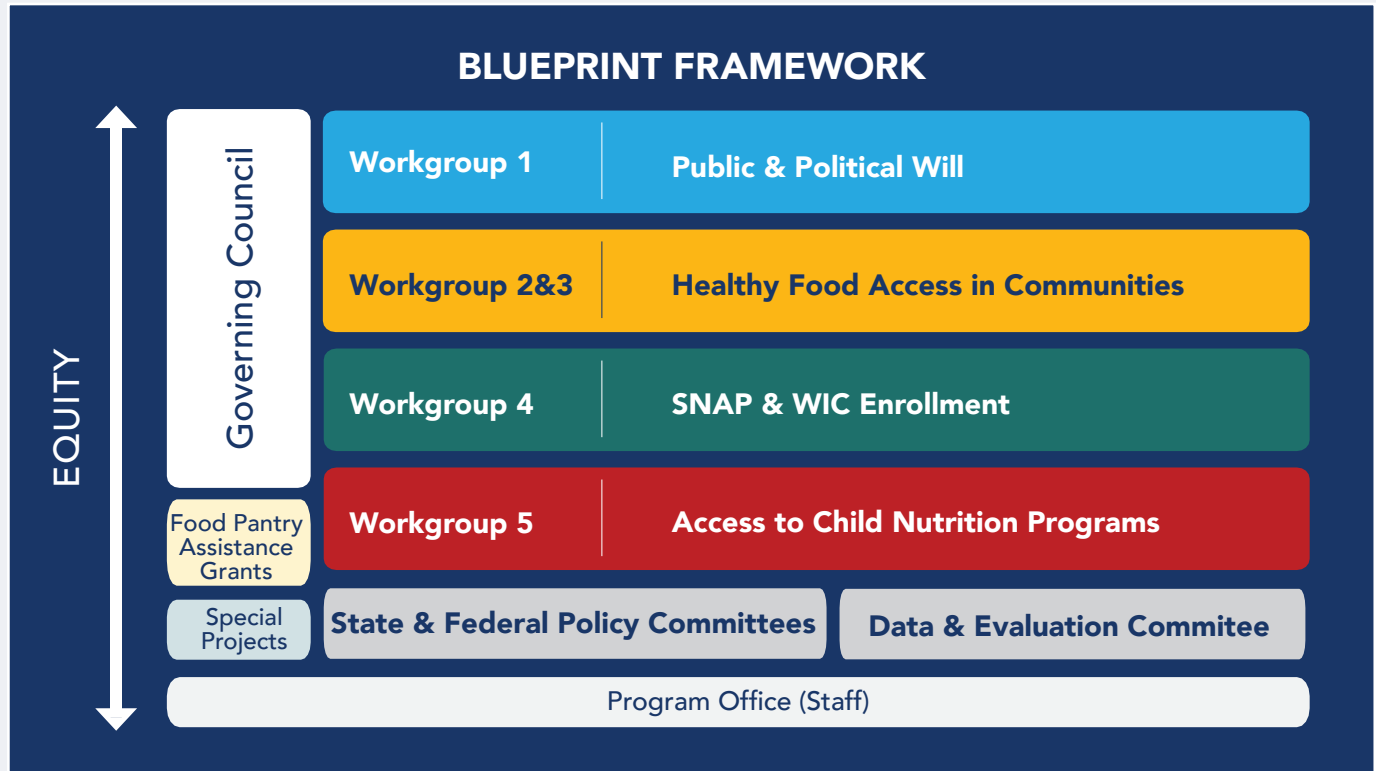
GOALS & FOCUS AREAS

As part of the original plan, the Blueprint has **five key goals and focus areas**:



WHERE WE ARE NOW

Our collaborative efforts align directly with these goals and our shared vision. They are **accomplished by multiple committees, workgroups, and associated project teams**, in addition to **direct investments in Colorado communities**. The Governing Council serves as the governing body that provides high-level oversight for the Blueprint, with staff of the Blueprint's program office supporting the collective impact work and network partners serving as co-chairs, project team leads, and participants.



Eggs available at a food pantry operation on the Western Slope (photo by Dana Wood)

WHERE WE HOPE TO GO NEXT

We are excited about the ongoing evolution of the Blueprint, as it **becomes a true community hub** – a place of connection, collaboration, and positive change. The Blueprint publicly announced its intention to transform in February 2023 and began a yearlong strategic planning process in March 2023.

Why is the Blueprint transforming? It all began with a big question about the future of our collective impact entity since the five-year plan concludes in the fall of 2024. In May 2022, the Governing Council decided that there was more work to be done and that the Blueprint should **evolve as a connector, convenor, and facilitator** in the food space and **become more community-centered**. It's time to further center diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging – and enhance community engagement and participation – in our collaborative efforts to address hunger across Colorado communities. And, we're ready to reimagine our collective goals and strategies alongside community.

TRANSFORMATION TIMELINE



We anticipate a larger focus on **community-driven goals and solutions that amplify efforts around food justice across the state**, as well as firmly centering equity and community voice, in the Blueprint's future. And we cannot wait to see what we'll achieve together.

COMMITMENT TO EQUITY

Equity is achieved when **everyone has a fair and just opportunity to live the healthiest life possible**, no matter who we are, where we live, or how much money we make. This requires understanding and removing obstacles that impact hunger, such as poverty and discrimination.

We recognize that poverty and hunger disproportionately impact families and individuals from historically oppressed and marginalized communities – the result of a long history of policies that have created and maintained barriers to opportunity for people of color and non-native English speakers.

At the Blueprint, we strive to **center equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging within all of our work**. We demonstrate our commitment by welcoming and inviting all opinions and perspectives; ensuring everyone is treated with respect and fairness; seeking voices that have historically been left out; and leveraging the unique perspectives, abilities, and qualities that individuals choose to share.

Here are some of [our practices](#) to elevate community voice, build community power, and engage directly with those who have historically been left out:

OUR PRACTICES

We value and welcome participation by **those with living or lived experience**. [Compensation](#) is available for community members who are not representing an organization as a paid employee and engage in Blueprint-hosted meetings and activities.

We **encourage other organizations to start or continue their own equity journey**. The Blueprint offers [opportunities and resources](#) like a yearlong equity challenge, which includes a peer learning series, and an equity continuum and self-assessment with one-on-one support available for organizations.

[Language justice](#) ensures there's space for participants to speak in the language that they feel most comfortable using. We offer **simultaneous interpretation in Spanish and English** at all Blueprint-hosted meetings and activities. We also provide **all public communication in both languages**.



We actively **develop accessible [funding opportunities](#) to support community-based organizations** – often those who are traditionally overlooked for funding – to increase healthy food access in their local areas and neighborhoods. They're intentionally **designed to minimize barriers**, with only limited requirements to encourage instead of deterring or disqualifying interested applicants. Additionally, the Blueprint creates **shared opportunities for community members to lead decision-making** around grant program development and distribution of funds.

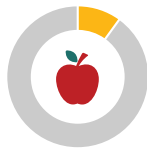
The Blueprint **stands in solidarity with Indigenous peoples and nations**, recognizing the original stewards of our lands and the challenges that they continue to face today due to genocide and displacement by colonialism and U.S. public policy. We also encourage others to learn and take action. Our [land acknowledgment](#), written by a local leader within the American Indian Movement, is one way we do this; it's **read at the beginning of every Blueprint-hosted meeting and shared publicly** in other ways to honor Indigenous communities and encourage others to learn and take action. We also **support Indigenous efforts through grants** for traditional food access, elder storytelling, and accomplice and self-determination trainings.

A LOOK AT HUNGER IN COLORADO

Increased cost of living and inflation continue to put an additional strain on individuals and families across our state. Many are struggling due to low incomes, lack of affordable housing, chronic health conditions, and other life storms – and such circumstances can lead to **difficult choices like having to pay rent instead of purchasing nourishing foods**.

Hunger affects people's physical and mental health, children's development and academic success, and older adults' ability to age in place – all of which, in turn, directly **impact a community's health and well-being**. People of all ages, zip codes, backgrounds, and abilities may lack reliable access to affordable, healthy food to thrive. But, we know that **people of color and non-native English speakers face higher rates of hunger due to long-standing racial disparities** that must be fully acknowledged, addressed, and removed from our food systems.

WHAT HUNGER LOOKS LIKE IN COLORADO



More than **1 in 11 people** (9.2%) in Colorado **don't have reliable access to sufficient, affordable, and nutritious foods** to support their health and well-being. Black (14%) and Latine (16%) residents are disproportionately impacted.¹



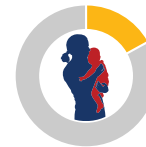
About **1 in 7 people in Colorado** (14%) have **skipped meals because they could not afford food**. Indigenous (55%), multiracial (28%), Black (22%), and Latine (19%) community members are even more impacted.³



About **1 in 12 older adults in Colorado** (8.2%) who are at least 50 **lack access to enough food** for an active, healthy life.⁵



Nearly **2 in 5 Coloradans** (38%) are **worried about affording food**. Higher rates were reported among those who identify as Black (39%), Latine (47%), and Indigenous (55%).²



More than **1 in 6 Colorado families** (17%) reported that their **children were not eating enough** due to food being unaffordable.⁴



\$1.98/meal is the average **SNAP benefit per person** in Colorado, which is about \$1.74 less than the average cost of a meal (\$3.72) in Colorado.⁶

1 *Map the Meal Gap*, Feeding America, 2021 data in 2023 report

2 *Pulse Poll*, The Colorado Health Foundation, 2023

3 *Pulse Poll*, The Colorado Health Foundation, 2023

4 *KIDS COUNT! in Colorado*, Colorado Children's Campaign, 2022 data in 2023 report

5 *The State of Senior Hunger in America*, Feeding America, 2021 data in 2023 report

6 *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Facts for Colorado*, Center on Budget & Policy Priorities, 2022 data in 2023 release
Map the Meal Gap, Feeding America, 2021 data in 2023 report



COLORADO BLUEPRINT **TO END HUNGER**

PROGRESS TOWARDS OUR VISION



IMPACT OF THE BLUEPRINT

We can only achieve our goals and move towards our vision with the **collective action of our statewide network of partners**. The Blueprint's diverse network consists of community-based organizations, local and regional food coalitions, producers and farm workers, community members, food pantries and food banks, nonprofit advocacy organizations, county and state agencies, health care providers, and more.

Here's an overview of the Blueprint network:

Network Involvement

In early 2023, our team surveyed the Blueprint's network of partners and received 133 responses.



Satisfaction

More than **3 in 4** (76.9%) are satisfied with the Blueprint and its work.



Participation

(number of years)

- 21.6% 3+ years
- 33.5% 1-3 years
- 42.8% 1 year or less



Representation

- 85.7% represent an organization (of those, 57.3% represent a community-based organization)
- 14.3% are a community member, and 52.3% have lived or living expertise with hunger



Participation & Compensation



365 participants during all Blueprint-hosted meetings each month

Based upon average monthly attendance in 2023



55 community members, on average, receive **recurring stipends for sharing their lived or living expertise** each month



214 community members have participated since the Blueprint's implementation, receiving a **combined total of \$230,347 in compensation** for sharing their lived or living expertise



Digital Engagement



40,545 website visits

Combined total from English- and Spanish-language websites



1,425 newsletter subscribers



2,248 social media followers

Combined total from Facebook, LinkedIn, and X/Twitter

**Data reported through Oct. 15, 2023*

COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS

The Blueprint invests in local communities to increase healthy food access for everyone living in Colorado. We actively **develop accessible funding opportunities and distribute grants to support community-based organizations**, particularly those traditionally overlooked for funding, who are leading day-to-day work in their local areas and neighborhoods. They are intentionally **designed to minimize barriers**, with only limited requirements to encourage instead of deterring or disqualifying interested applicants. Also, as part of our process, we create **shared opportunities for community members to lead decision-making** around grant program development and distribution of funds.

In addition to financial investments, the Blueprint does provide other support to grantees as part of some programs like the statewide Food Pantry Assistance Grants. This has included technical assistance and a peer-to-peer learning series to support the procurement of local Colorado products and improve an organization's operations for increased access and equity.

The Blueprint also continuously evaluates its grant distribution programs to ensure they are effective, efficient, and equitable. (Review such evaluation reports from the Food Pantry Assistance Grant program's 2021 - 2022 and 2022 - 2023 grant cycles.)

Here is an overview of Blueprint-led community investments, some of which receive support from different public institutions and philanthropic organizations:

Total Investments

Total number of grants distributed by the Blueprint:



\$17,671,030
in funds



1,580
grant awards



554
different organizations



Indigenous food distribution in Montezuma County (photo by Dana Wood)

COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS

Colorado's Food Pantry Assistance Grants

This grant program exists to support organizations working directly in Colorado communities so everyone can access healthy food options near where they live. It's open to all food pantries in the state, with a focus on purchasing meat, dairy, and fresh produce from local farmers, ranchers, and producers. The annual funding is appropriated by the state legislature to the Colorado Department of Human Services, which then works with the Blueprint for grant distribution. The Blueprint's statewide network of community reviewers determines how the funds are awarded.

Food Pantry Assistance Grants by Year



Colorado's COVID-19 Emergency Hunger Relief Fund

In March 2020, the Blueprint was approached by a collaborative of Colorado funders to develop and administer the state's COVID-19 Emergency Hunger Relief Fund in response to exacerbated hunger in communities as a result of the pandemic. While not originally established to operate as a funder, the Blueprint stepped into this role to ensure the hardest-hit communities received available funds, as well as to bridge the gap and create connections between philanthropic and community organizations. The Blueprint distributed funds from the Colorado Department of Human Services, Healthy Food for Denver's Kids, and The Colorado Health Foundation over nine grant cycles.

536
total organizations



\$5,696,125
in funds

Other Funding

The Blueprint formed the Food Justice Funders' Collaborative in 2022 to bring together philanthropic organizations for learning, connections, and exploration of collaborative opportunities to impact food systems across the state. In 2023, they approved \$10,000 in funding to a regional food coalition in southwestern Colorado.

Other community investments, led by specific workgroups and committees, are covered in their respective sections of this report.

BUILDING PUBLIC & POLITICAL WILL TO END HUNGER

The Blueprint's **Workgroup 1** aims to move from a Colorado culture focused on individual conditions to one of community responsibility and support to end the systemic issue of hunger. Such a state results in everyone, regardless of social identities or personal characteristics, having access to sufficient, nutritious, and culturally relevant food without stigma.

Here's how they have helped advance the Blueprint's shared vision and goals:



- ✓ Developed and disseminated the **Anti-Hunger Community Action Toolkit**
- ✓ Produced materials and marketing to support the **promotion of school meals and their quality**
- ✓ Created **food program marketing materials**, including for SNAP, to fill gaps at county levels
- ✓ Ensuring **language justice in all public communications** from the Blueprint, including fully bilingual newsletters, websites, social media, and other materials, as well as emails, meeting agendas, and simultaneous interpretation during meetings
- ✓ Increasing the **visibility of the Blueprint's network**, in addition to amplifying **community voice and wins**, with more partner spotlights, expanded news coverage, a new job board, and the introduction of customizable communication tools for grantees and network partners



Hub for food access and nutrition education in Colorado's oldest town (photo by Dana Wood)

INCREASING HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS IN COMMUNITIES

The Blueprint's **Workgroup 2/3** is working towards a Colorado with an interconnected and coordinated food system that creates a welcoming and safe environment for families and communities to share healthy food. In this new place, food is healthy and affordable, and food access is equitable and easy.

Here are some of their key accomplishments:



- ✓ Incorporated **retail outreach** into practices for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) beginning in 2021
- ✓ Enhanced **transportation strategies utilizing federal child nutrition programs**, including the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) since 2021
- ✓ Distributed \$12,000 in funding from the Colorado Department of Agriculture for **organizations to lead local listening sessions around community food access**; these community-led efforts resulted in one of the Blueprint's legislative priorities for 2022 and then the creation of the Community Food Access Program in the state department
- ✓ Helped develop and administer the **pilot Community Food Access Grant Program** within the Colorado Department of Agriculture to help small grocers and retailers expand their capacity to carry fresh produce in 2022
- ✓ Awarded **18 grants, totaling \$57,000** from CommonSpirit (formerly known as Centura Health), for **community organizations to conduct direct outreach and provide technical assistance** as part of the pilot Community Food Access Grant Program in 2022
- ✓ Developed and released an **equity continuum and self-assessment** for the Blueprint network in 2021, which then led to the launch of a yearlong **equity challenge and peer-to-peer learning series** in 2023
- ✓ Conducted an in-depth **evaluation of Colorado's produce incentive programs through the lens of participants** to gain insights and encourage program improvements in 2022 - 2023
- ✓ Supported the creation of the **community-led Liderazgo Comunitario (Community Leadership) workshop series** for grassroots leaders working towards food justice in 2023
- ✓ Launched a **microgrant program** in 2023 to provide a **total of \$44,000 over two rounds of funding to support grassroots organizations**, particularly those led by Black, Indigenous, Latine, and other people of color, in expanding healthy food access in their communities
- ✓ Distributed **\$28,000 in funding** from Kaiser Permanente to **five grantees for providing technical assistance to small grocers and retailers** seeking certification to accept benefits for SNAP (federally known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) in 2023

INCREASING ENROLLMENT IN SNAP & WIC

The Blueprint's **Workgroup 4** is working towards a process for SNAP and WIC (federally known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for Women, Infants, and Children respectively) in Colorado that's client-centered for all. The process is easy, responsible, equitable, and stigma-free.

Here are some of their most notable achievements:



- ✓ Created **toolkits for text and telephonic signature for SNAP** in 2020 to ease program access
- ✓ Developed **family journeys for WIC and SNAP** in 2020 to ensure consideration of lived and living experience with any potential program changes
- ✓ Led efforts to **improve county work management systems** to make food assistance programs work better for low-income households (House Bill 2022-1380)
- ✓ **Granted \$300,000 in total to local government agencies and community organizations to increase cross-program alignment** in Medicaid, SNAP, and WIC within their communities in 2021 - 2022; funding provided by the Colorado Prevention Alliance and Denver Health
- ✓ Guided efforts for policy change to **update the database for the Low-income Energy Assistance Program**, commonly known as LEAP, so recipients of public benefits like SNAP can be better connected to utility assistance programs (House Bill 2021-1105)
- ✓ Supported community advocates in **exploring ways to reduce barriers to SNAP for those who are houseless**, which resulted in the creation of an official project team in 2023
- ✓ Formed a new cross-sector project team that's focused on **improving nutrition access for Medicaid members** in 2023
- ✓ Submitted recommendations to Colorado's Department of Health Care Policy and Finance, alongside network partners, in 2023 to **encourage interventions that improve food and nutrition security for Medicaid members**



Fresh food distribution in the Four Corners region (photo by Dana Wood)

MAXIMIZING CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

The Blueprint's **Workgroup 5** is working towards a Colorado where all children have equitable and regular access to healthy food that's geographically convenient and stigma-free. They'll also have adequate time to eat during the school day.

Here's how they have realized their shared vision and goals:



- ✓ Developed and continue to update a **Colorado asset map for federal child nutrition programs**, beginning in 2021, to create more opportunities and eliminate gaps in access and availability across the state
- ✓ Supported the Colorado Department of Education with **outreach and technical assistance around the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)** for Colorado public schools in 2021 - 2022
- ✓ Partnered with the Colorado Department of Education to **create a Medicaid direct certification pilot for school meals** beginning in 2023
- ✓ Assisted and expanded **access to summer meals for Colorado youth**, with a focus on the recruitment of more sites and sponsors for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) in 2022 - 2023
- ✓ Supported the implementation of **Healthy School Meals for All** in public schools across Colorado during 2023
 - Leading a **collaborative, statewide marketing and outreach campaign** in 2023 - 2024 that includes **\$370,000 in mini-grants for 40 community-based organizations**, funded by the Colorado Access Foundation and The Colorado Health Foundation
- ✓ Advocating for **more time to eat in Colorado public schools**, alongside network partners, in 2023; requesting lunch periods be included in instructional time since research shows the positive impacts on student learning, development, and overall well-being



POLICY & ADVOCACY

A key strategy of the Blueprint is to **advance legislative efforts at the state and federal levels** to support its goals and advance its mission. There are currently two committees – one dedicated to state policy and the other focused on federal policy.

Here are some of their most notable achievements:



State Efforts

- ✓ Participated in a coalition that resulted in the successful passage of House Bill 2022-1380 to **create the new Community Food Access Program** in the Colorado Department of Agriculture, as well as improve work management systems for Colorado counties
- ✓ Supported the broader coalition leading Proposition FF, the **ballot initiative for Healthy School Meals for All**, which was approved by Colorado voters in 2022
- ✓ Hosted the **largest anti-hunger state policy platform to date** in 2023, with eight legislative priorities and a majority of supported bills signed into law; led or supported **a total of 19 bills since 2020**
- ✓ Piloted the **first cohort for the Anti-Hunger Advocacy Academy** in 2023, done in partnership with other organizations, which included 16 participants and four mentors
- ✓ Joined the “Together We Thrive” coalition to **support progressive tax reform** across Colorado in 2023
- ✓ Held **in-depth and collective prioritization processes** in 2021 and 2023 to inform the Blueprint’s state legislative policy platforms for 2022 and 2024
- ✓ Convening a coalition, driven by local farmers, to **help create a legislative strategy for a Farm Equity Office** in the Colorado Department of Agriculture
 - **Granted \$25,000 to support Indigenous efforts** around elder storytelling to capture oral narratives of Traditional Ecological Knowledge, in addition to host trainings for white accomplices and Indigenous self-determination

POLICY & ADVOCACY



Federal Efforts

- ✓ Hosted a **Colorado-focused listening session for the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health** in 2022
- ✓ Hosted **multiple Farm Bill listening sessions with Members of Congress** and supported collective priorities around the five-year federal legislation in 2023
- ✓ Led or joined **18 sign-on letters and public comments** with national, state, and local partners in 2023 like a letter to Colorado's Attorney General about the supermarket merger, addressing the collection of race and ethnicity data as part of SNAP, and opposing the repeal of the 2022 public charge rule
- ✓ Continually **supporting Colorado's delegation in Congress around food access matters**, most recently with data and talking points regarding Colorado WIC and what's at stake if the program is not fully funded as part of the Fiscal Year 2024 federal budget



From left to right: Farm in San Luis Valley, Montezuma Farm to School, and free farmers' market hosted by Solid Rock Community Development Corporation in El Paso County (photos by Dana Wood and Michelle Ray)

DATA & EVALUATION

The **Data & Evaluation Committee** oversees learning and evaluation for the Blueprint. They monitor progress across workgroups and their project teams, support continued collection of data and use of ongoing learning practices, and evaluate progress on the Blueprint's goals – all to leverage and connect existing data efforts and encourage effective data use in decision-making.

Here are some of their key accomplishments:

- ✓ Developed and released a **new dashboard with publicly available data**, all accessible in one tool, in 2023; includes data on poverty and hunger, food access, SNAP and WIC, child nutrition, and public perceptions
- ✓ Developing a **collaborative local procurement map** with local producers, state agencies, and other network partners (to launch in 2024)

Introduction	Poverty	Food Insecurity	Food Access	SNAP and WIC Participation	Child Nutrition
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Welcome to the Colorado Blueprint
to End Hunger
Data Dashboard



Joint food distribution by Good Sam's Food Pantry and the Dolores Family Project in Cortez (photo by Dana Wood)

GET INVOLVED & STAY INFORMED



Stay up-to-date on news, stories, resources, and opportunities like funding:

- [Sign up](#) for our newsletter and email announcements
- Follow us on social media ([Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [X/Twitter](#))
- Visit our [website](#)



Join a workgroup and/or committee:

- Four different [workgroups](#), based upon the Blueprint's goals, with multiple project teams and focus areas
- Three committees ([state policy](#), [federal policy](#), and [data & evaluation](#))



Use free resources provided by the Blueprint like:

- [Data dashboard](#)
- [Equity resources](#)
- [Toolkits and other materials](#)



Everyone is welcome to join our network of partners!

As part of our commitment to equity, we offer interpretation in Spanish and English, along with closed captioning, during all Blueprint-hosted meetings and activities. [Compensation is also available](#) to anyone who voluntarily participates and is not representing an organization as a paid employee.



Pine River Shares in Bayfield (photo by Dana Wood)

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to everyone who has been involved in or is currently active with the Blueprint's network! Your engagement, whether it's been participating in meetings, contributing to project teams, or serving as a co-chair or project leader, has been instrumental in our collective impact work to address hunger in Colorado communities.

We want to give **special recognition to the following organizations and individuals**, which includes those currently and formerly involved (in alphabetical order by first name):

Funders:

Colorado Access Foundation
Colorado Department of Agriculture
Colorado Department of Education
Colorado Department of Human Services
Colorado Prevention Alliance and Denver Health

CommonSpirit (formerly known as Centura Health)
Healthy Food for Denver's Kids
Kaiser Permanente
The Colorado Health Foundation

Development of the Blueprint, including the steering committee:

Alexis Weightman, stakeholder engagement on behalf of the Foundation
Cindy Willard, steering committee consultant
Jennifer Banyan, principal consultant
Khadija Haynes, community engagement consultant
Michele Ames, communications consultant
Many community members/experts
Arapahoe County Human Services
Benefits Data Trust
Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado
CommonSpirit (formerly known as Centura Health)
Children's Hospital Colorado
City and County of Denver
Colorado Center on Law & Policy
Colorado Department of Education
Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing
Colorado Department of Human Services
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Colorado Food Policy Network
Colorado Human Services Directors Association
Colorado Prevention Alliance and Denver Health
Community Foundation of Boulder County

Covering Kids & Families
Denver County Human Services
Family Resource Center Association
Feeding America
Feeding Colorado
Food Bank of the Rockies
Hunger Free Colorado
Jefferson County School District
Kaiser Permanente Colorado
Larimer County Human Services
Leevers Supermarkets, Inc.
Metro Caring
Mile High Health Alliance
Montbello Organizing Committee
Nourish Colorado (formerly known as LiveWell Colorado)
Office of Governor John Hickenlooper
Pitkin County Human Services
Rocky Mountain Farmer's Union
Share Our Strength
The Colorado Health Foundation
The Denver Foundation
Weld Food Bank

SPECIAL THANKS

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*Small farm in Durango that donates excess produce to food pantries
(photo by Michelle Ray)*



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We want to respectfully acknowledge that we are part of an institution that sits upon the land of the Cheyenne, Ute, and Arapahoe nations. Currently, there are at least 48 tribal nations historically tied to the lands known as the state of Colorado and who are the original stewards of this land. Read the rest of our land acknowledgment at EndHungerCO.org.

