



COLORADO
Governor Jared Polis

As part of the Polis-Primavera Administration's vision to build a Colorado for All, we believe that a Colorado well adapted for aging is one where all individuals can thrive. The administration has taken significant steps that are in-line with the Strategic Action Plan on Aging and the resulting Lifelong Colorado initiative to make Colorado an even better place for older Coloradans.

How the Polis Administration is Supporting Older Coloradans

- Governor Polis ensured older Coloradans early on in the vaccine distribution process, making it available first to those 70 and older due to the increased impacts the virus has on Coloradans in that age group.
- Office coordinates across state agencies to ensure alignment and collaboration on issues that impact older Coloradans, their families, and their caregivers
- Approved the Lifelong Colorado State Plan and were reauthorized as a member of the AARP's Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities, one of only eight states
- Governor's Office retained and continued funding for the Senior Policy Advisor on Aging
- **HB21-1311 Income Tax**: Closes tax loopholes that benefit special interests and puts more money into Coloradans' pockets by **eliminating all income taxes on social security for seniors over age 65** and giving tax relief to families with young children through Colorado child tax credit. This legislation also doubles Colorado's Earned Income Tax Credit, helping an estimated 320,000 hard-working Colorado families earn their way out of poverty.

American Rescue Plan Act Funding

- The Administration will be investing roughly \$500 over the next 3 years for Medicaid Home and Community Based Services in order to:
 - ◆ Strengthen the Workforce and Enhance Rural Sustainability
 - ◆ Improve Crisis and Acute Services
 - ◆ Improve Access to HCBS for Underserved Populations
 - ◆ Support Post COVID Recovery and HCBS Innovation
 - ◆ Strengthen Case Management Redesign
 - ◆ Invest in Tools and Technology
 - ◆ Expand Emergency Preparedness
 - ◆ Enhance Quality Outcomes
- The Administration will also invest over \$450 million into affordable housing in collaboration with the Legislature during an interim committee process that will support Coloradans across the lifespan

Legislative Accomplishments to help Colorado seniors, signed into law by Gov. Polis

- **SB21-290, Security For Colorado Seniors** creates the Area Agency on Agency Grant Program which will support projects that help older Coloradans including community

services; infrastructure improvements; health promotion; transportation services; home modification; and fall prevention and chronic disease management programs.

- SB21-118, Alternative Response Mistreatment At-risk Adults creates the alternative response pilot program for counties to use when they receive low-risk reports of mistreatment or self-neglect of an at-risk adult. The Department of Human Services must select up to 15 counties to participate in the pilot and provide training and technical assistance to those counties.
- SB21-158, Increase Medical Providers For Senior Citizens modifies the Colorado Health Service Corps program in the Department of Public Health and Environment to include geriatric advanced practice providers. It allows geriatric advanced practice providers who meet certain criteria to participate in an education loan repayment program and appropriates \$400,000.
- SB21-146, Improve Prison Release Outcomes requires the Colorado Commission on Aging in the Department of Human Services to study and make recommendations related to health insurance enrollment for inmates who are 65 years of age or older upon release from prison.
- SB21-181, Equity Strategic Plan Address Health Disparities renames the Health Disparities Grant Program as the Health Disparities and Community Grant Program and expands its functions. The program's grantmaking scope is broadened to address social determinants of health for underrepresented populations in order to improve health outcomes across the lifespan.
- SB21-251, General Fund Loan Family Medical Leave Program creates a one-time state transfer of \$1.5 million from the General Fund to the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Fund for the initial implementation of paid leave for family caregivers.
- SB21-148, Creation Of Financial Empowerment Office creates the Financial Empowerment Office in the Department of Law to expand access to safe and affordable banking and credit, and free individual financial counseling and coaching, as well as developing stronger consumer protections
- SB21-175, Prescription Drug Affordability Review Board saves Coloradans money on the cost of prescription drugs by creating a Prescription Drug Affordability Board tasked with capping the high cost of prescription drugs for top prescriptions
- SB21-075, Supported Decision-making Agreement will allow adults with disabilities to use supported decision making instead of guardianship, giving them more control of their own lives
- HB21-1264, Funds Workforce Development Increase Worker Skills creates the Investments in Reskilling, Upskilling, and Next-skilling Workers Program, and the Workforce Innovation Act. It provides funding for multiple education programs, and creates the Workers, Employers, and Workforce Centers Cash Fund. It transfers \$225.0 million to the cash fund and appropriates \$75.0 million to various workforce development programs.
- HB21-1271, Department Of Local Affairs Innovative Affordable Housing Strategies creates three different programs in the Department of Local Affairs: the Housing Development Incentives Grant, Planning Grant Program, and the Affordable Housing Guided Toolkit and Local Officials Guide. Each of these programs promotes the

development of affordable and mixed-income housing across the state. Together, the programs provide a total of \$48 million in funds to jump start development and eliminate barriers to developing more housing across our State. Of this total, a \$13 million portion is from our Colorado Recovery Plan state stimulus, with an \$35 million of additional investment from the American Rescue Plan.