

2013 ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY POVERTY REDUCTION TASK FORCE STATEMENT OF SHARED PRINCIPLES

The Economic Opportunity Poverty Reduction (EOPR) Task Force is committed to an inclusive process of dialogue that embraces varied perspectives on the complex issues related to child and family poverty and the nexus between economic opportunity and poverty reduction.

We understand that there is a proper role for the public sector to provide an effective safety net in collaboration with our community-based non-profits and faith-based partners. And there is the moral component of supporting our most vulnerable neighbors such as children who are hungry, elders who survive on fixed incomes, persons with disabilities who are marginalized, or families who live paycheck to paycheck.

We understand that there is a strong connection between public services and infrastructure, the business community, and sustainable economic development. A skilled workforce is our human capital infrastructure, which is essential for a vibrant economy and for creating jobs that help lift people out of poverty. Colorado businesses can be greatly enhanced from potential employees seeking to overcome poverty. The best way out of poverty is a quality education and a quality job, and personal responsibility and shared responsibility go hand in hand.

To lay a foundation and to guide our work in 2013, we understand that:

- It is in the public interest that all Colorado families and individuals have improved access to educational and economic opportunities that help families achieve financial security;
- Poverty has social and economic costs for children and families, communities and the state;
- Reducing child poverty contributes to better learning and health for the child,
- Many middle-class families are living paycheck to paycheck;
- Meaningful work and a quality job provide dignity and financial security to the worker;
- Family resiliency and civic engagement are important for building community;
- Advancing economic opportunity and reducing poverty are critical economic development issues, good for business and the taxpayers because effective practices can save taxpayer dollars; and
- It is important to establish metrics and performance goals to evaluate promising practices and the work of the EOPR Task Force towards achieving the goal of cutting the poverty rate in half by 2019.