

# OFFICE OF HEALTH EQUITY

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

The mission of the Office of Health Equity is to  
*ensure that every Coloradan has an equal  
opportunity to achieve their full health potential.*

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## WE DO THIS BY:

- Helping others understand and effectively communicate about health equity and expand the public conversation about what creates health. For example, we know that where people live, learn, work and play matters most to their health.
- Funding, working in partnership with and strengthening communities across Colorado to build their power and public will so they may create their own healthy futures.
- Providing language access services to each Coloradan to ensure effective communication in their preferred language.

## OFFICE FUNCTIONS:

- Lead, coordinate and implement strategies related to the department's health equity efforts.
- Publish data reports documenting health disparities.
- Provide education on health equity, health disparities and the social determinants of health.
- Coordinate interpretation and translation services within the department and offer technical assistance to other state and local agencies.
- Administer the Health Disparities Grant Program.
- Coordinate the Health Equity Commission.
- Develop communications strategies regarding health equity.
- Build collaborative partnerships with communities to identify and promote health equity strategies.

## HISTORY:

- The Office of Health Disparities and the Minority Health Advisory Commission evolved out of a six-year Turning Point grant provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and a start-up grant from Kaiser Permanente.
- The office and the commission were codified in statute through Senate Bill 242 in May 2007.
- In 2013, House Bill 13-1088 changed the name of the office to the Office of Health Equity and expanded it to serve lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT), aging, disabled, low-socioeconomic and geographic populations.
- The Minority Health Advisory Commission and the Interagency Health Disparities Leadership Council were consolidated into the Health Equity Commission.

## CONTACT:

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