

**Colorado Maternal and Child Health  
2016-2020 Needs Assessment Process**

**KEY PRINCIPLES**

These principles were developed by the MCH Needs Assessment Advisory Group and are being used to guide many aspects of the MCH needs assessment and work planning processes.

- ◎ **MCH Target Population**: Focus on children and youth (birth-25), children and youth with special needs (birth – 21), women of reproductive age (15-44) and their families.
- ◎ **Strengths-based Approach**: Consider assets and gaps, risk and protective factors, and positive outcomes.
- ◎ **MCH Community and Stakeholder Integration**: Seek MCH community and stakeholder experience and perspective to inform efforts and results.
- ◎ **Don't Reinvent the Wheel**: Maximize resources/current efforts to produce the highest quality NA.
- ◎ **Health Equity**: Apply a health equity lens throughout process.
- ◎ **Communication**: Systematically communicate to the MCH community and stakeholders.
- ◎ **Data-driven Decisions**: Use quantitative and qualitative data to inform decision making.
- ◎ **Best Practices**: Apply best practices to methodology and planning efforts.
- ◎ **Openness to New Key Principles**: Be open to new principles and questions during the process.