



2021 Legislative Session In Review Rocky Mountain Partnership

The 2021 Colorado Legislative Session ended on Tuesday, June 15 with over 670 bills introduced. **It will certainly go down as one of the most consequential sessions in recent memory**, as Democrats – who are in their third year in the state house majority – changed everything from the tax code to the criminal justice system and the state’s transportation funding mechanism. Looking to next year, January 12, 2022, has been set as the convening date for the Second Regular Session of the 73rd Colorado General Assembly.

In 2021, Rocky Mountain Partnership actively participated in the 2021 legislative session for the first time. Below, you’ll find **a few quick takeaways on the work of the Policy & Legislative Advisory Network and the Rocky Mountain Partnership** over the last six months. Want more information about the Policy & Legislative Advisory Network and who is involved? Click **HERE** to learn more.

Questions? Reach out to **Senior Director of Policy & Advocacy Kayah Swanson HERE**.

All 9 Bills Supported by RMP Passed

During the 2021 Colorado Legislative Session, the Policy & Legislative Advisory Network identified nine bills in line with the Partnership's policy priorities for formal endorsement by the Partnership. **All nine of the bills supported by the Partnership passed!**

HB21-1117
Local Government Authority
Promote Affordable
Housing Units

HB21-1134
Report Tenant Rent Payment
Information To Credit Agencies

HB21-1222
Regulation Of Family
Child Care Homes

HB21-1258
Rapid Mental Health Response
For Colorado Youth

HB21-1294
K-12 Education Accountability
Systems Performance Audit

HB21-1330
Higher Education
Student Success

SB21-027
Emergency Supplies For
Colorado Babies And Families

SB21-148
Creation of Financial
Empowerment Office

SB21-232
Displaced Workers Grant

Presented Priorities to 8 Regional Lawmakers

One of the goals for this year was to **build out relationships with the legislative delegation** in the geographic footprint of the Partnership. The **Backbone Team held introductory calls with eight different state legislators**, where they were onboarded to the work of the Partnership and the policy priorities established for 2021.

The lawmakers who held meetings with the Partnership include:

- Rep. Adrienne Benavidez
- Rep. Shannon Bird
- Rep. Yadira Caravez
- Rep. Matt Gray
- Rep. Dafna Michaelson-Jenet
- Rep. Kyle Mullica
- Sen. Dominick Moreno
- Sen. Faith Winter

Plus, **Senator Moreno joined the Policy & Legislative Advisory Network for their meeting in April to discuss the state budget!**

The Partnership contacted each member of our legislative delegation to pursue a meeting, and is **still working to schedule with those lawmakers we have not yet met with.**

Established Shared Policy Priorities

The Policy & Legislative Advisory Network **established shared policy priorities** to help guide collective work during the session. The priorities were in keeping with the Partnership's **first shared global target** around credential attainment. The Partnership Accountability Network formally adopted them on behalf of the Partnership early in the year.

The priorities covered three main areas, including:

1. Increasing Credentialing Opportunities

2. Supporting Businesses to Expand Credentialing Opportunities
3. Supporting and Expanding Online Credentialing and Location-Neutral Jobs

View the 2021 policy priorities for Rocky Mountain Partnership [HERE](#).

Held First Credential Attainment Town Hall

In April, the [Policy & Legislative Advisory Network](#) hosted a [Credential Attainment Town Hall to convene statewide experts](#) and discuss why credential attainment is an essential focus to improve economic and social mobility in our region. It also **provided the community with action steps** to take and **identified continued need for collective work in this area**. Nearly 70 people logged on to watch!

The Town Hall panelists included:

- **Peter LiFari**, Executive Director of Maiker Housing Partners | [RMP Co-Champion for Community Voice](#)
- **Joe Barela**, Executive Director, Colorado Department of Labor and Employment
- **Raymond Gonzales**, Adams County Manager | [RMP Steering Committee Co-Chair](#) | [RMP Co-Champion for Economics & Workforce Development](#)
- **Dr. Tricia Johnson**, Vice President-Westminster Campus, Front Range Community College | [RMP Co-Champion for Education & Training](#)
- **Dr. Kim Poast**, Chief Student Success and Academic Affairs Officer, Colorado Department of Higher Education
- **Andrew Tucker**, Director of Postsecondary Readiness, Colorado Department of Education
- **Jennie Rodgers**, VP & Market Leader for Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.

Watch the 2021 Credential Attainment Town Hall event [HERE](#).

Hosted Advocacy 101 Trainings

In March, the Co-Champions and Chair of the Policy & Legislative Advisory Network held three Advocacy 101 trainings. They [helped participants go back to the basics of the legislative](#)

process, learn how to make their voice heard, add some new advocacy tools to their toolbox, and more.

The Partnership **hosted over 30 participants across the three events!** Plus, attendees went home with an advocacy toolkit to move the work forward in their own spheres.

View the Advocacy 101 toolkit provided to participants [HERE](#).