



2022 Policy Priorities

Rocky Mountain Partnership's 2022 policy priorities are intended to remove policy barriers related to their collective work, and support community members to provide for themselves and their families and the economy to thrive.



Increase access to mental health care.

Barriers to care persist for individuals in Colorado, including lack of insurance coverage and a shortage in providers. In 2019, more than one in 10 Coloradans said they did not get needed mental health care in the past year, issues that have only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Expanding the following supports can alleviate these issues:

- Increasing insurance access
- Increasing provider availability
- Removing cost barriers

Source: 2019 Colorado Health Institute Colorado Health Access Survey

Increase availability of affordable housing, emergency supports for housing insecurity.

Since 2000 in Adams County, median rent has risen 37% and home value has risen 116%, but household median income has risen only 1%. In RMP's region, there were only 4,400 units affordable to 12,660 low-income families needing housing. 63% of Adams County low-income households are cost burdened with regards to housing, and a disproportionate share of people of color are impacted by cost burden.

Expanding these supports can alleviate these issues:

- Addressing housing cost burden
- Expanding access to financial support or open shelter beds

Sources: US Census 2000, ACS 1-year data 2005-2019, CHAS 2013-2017

Increase access to affordable, reliable child care.

Child care is a substantial need for working families and student-parents. Child care costs are currently one of the highest in families' budgets—often exceeding the cost of college. More than 1/2 of Americans live in child care deserts. Options are even more limited for low-income and rural families.

Expanding the following supports can alleviate these issues:

- Addressing affordability
- Increasing available programs
- Expanding the care workforce

Sources: "The 51%: Driving growth through women's economic participation," Urban Institute Policy Blog

Other Priorities in Alignment with the Work of Rocky Mountain Partnership

BASIC NEEDS

- Access to healthy foods
- Access to internet and web-enabled technology

HEALTH & MENTAL HEALTH

- Access to health care
- Improve health outcomes related to air quality

SOCIAL & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- Expand co-responder programs
- Remove barriers for undocumented individuals

EDUCATION & TRAINING

- Remove barriers to increased enrollment in higher education (credential, license, 2 - 4 year)
- Increase financial support for all learners
- Increase funding from the state for schools

ECONOMICS & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Remove barriers to workforce training
- Achieve pay equity for women, people of color



Learn more about the Rocky Mountain Partnership 2022 Policy Priorities