



## Support Continued Access to Effective Birth Control

*Good for the Health & Prosperity of Colorado's Women, Children and Our State*

By investing a small amount of state funds in a long-standing, effective program, we can:

- Support the health and well-being of women and their children by reducing unintended pregnancies,
- Empower women to attain their education goals, helping create financially secure and strong families,
- Lower the abortion rate, and
- Reduce the number of people who need to use Medicaid and other public assistance programs.

“Having access to low cost LARC methods allowed me to make my own choices about my reproductive health. Money was no longer an obstacle for me to protect myself and put myself in control of my body and my life.”

- Lesley, LARC recipient, 24,  
Denver resident

### Background

Publicly-funded family planning services have been available in Colorado for more than four decades. In recent years, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment was able to expand services to include greater access to the most effective forms of contraception through additional provider education, enhanced contraceptive counseling for patients and increased access to long-acting reversible contraception (LARC), which include IUDs and hormonal implants. With an up to 10-year lifespan, these methods are **proven to be safe and effective for women**, but are expensive on the front-end, creating financial barriers to access. When given the opportunity to choose from the full range of contraceptive methods, **more women choose these methods** because of their reliability and effectiveness. While unintended pregnancy can be tough at any age, the financial barriers faced by young people makes it especially challenging.

- The birth rate for young women age 15-19 has been cut by more than half, falling 54 percent between 2009 and 2016. A similar downward trend can be seen among women ages 20 to 24, with their birth rate dropping 30 percent between 2009 and 2016.
- The number of teens giving birth for the second or third time (repeat teen births) dropped by nearly two-thirds, 63 percent between 2009 and 2016.
- The abortion rate among women ages 15-19 fell by 64 percent between 2009 and 2016, and by 41 percent among women ages 20 to 24.
- Studies show that between \$66.1 and \$69.6 million in public assistance costs associated with unintended births were avoided because women aged 15-24 did not need to seek that support.

### Reasons to support continued funding for this important program

- ✓ It is good for the health and well-being of Colorado's children and families.
- ✓ It supports the goals of educational attainment, financial stability and self-sufficiency, decreasing the need to access public assistance programs.
- ✓ It reduces the abortion rate.
- ✓ It has broad community support as well as bi-partisan support among lawmakers.

## **2018 Supporters**

American Academy of Pediatrics - Colorado Chapter  
Bent County Public Health  
Boulder County Public Health  
Bright by Three  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Children's Hospital Colorado  
Colorado Association for Infant Mental Health (CoAIMH)  
Colorado Academy of Family Physicians  
Colorado Association for School-Based Health Care  
Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials (CALPHO)  
Colorado Children's Campaign  
Colorado Consumer Health Initiative  
Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR)  
Colorado Public Health Nurse Leaders (CPHNL)  
Colorado Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)  
Denver Health  
Denver Public Health  
Global Health Foundation  
Having Kids  
Health District of Northern Larimer County  
Healthier Colorado  
Jefferson County Public Health  
Kaiser Permanente Colorado  
Larimer County Board of Health  
NARAL Prochoice Colorado  
Northwest Colorado Health  
Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains  
Public Health Nurses Association of Colorado (PHNAC)  
Summit County Board of Health  
The Consortium  
The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado  
The Kempe Foundation  
The Women's Foundation of Colorado  
The Women's Foundation of Colorado  
Tri-County Health Department  
Women's Collaborative for Colorado  
Women's Lobby of Colorado