

Justice and Economic Security for all Coloradans

REAL SOLUTIONS FOR REAL PEOPLE WITH REAL PROBLEMS

2008-2009 ANNUAL REPORT

CCLP: Research. Education. Advocacy. Litigation. Results.

The Colorado Center on Law and Policy employs a unique combination of policy and legal research and analysis, education, advocacy and litigation to accomplish our mission. We are dedicated to reshaping state policies so that all Coloradans, particularly lower-income Coloradans, have equal access to justice, economic security, and opportunity. We act and we get results.

Lower-income people, including working individuals, families, immigrants and other vulnerable populations are often disadvantaged due to institutional failures or misquided priorities. It doesn't have to be that way. And that's where we come in.

We believe we can find ways to foster self-sufficiency, guarantee access to affordable and quality health care, create a fair and equitable fiscal system, and advance responsible public policies for all Coloradans.

CCLP HISTORY

This year marks CCLP's ten year anniversary as one of Colorado's leading advocacy organizations dedicated to promoting justice, economic security, access to health care, and sound fiscal policies. The agency has come a long way since its creation, evolving over time to become a powerful voice for the vulnerable, a watchdog for taxpayers, and a fierce advocate for justice.

CCLP is now the only organization that provides critical advocacy formerly provided by Colorado's federally funded legal services programs. In 1995 and 1996, Legal Services Programs suffered significant losses due to federal budget cuts, as well as new federal laws that prohibited many forms of administrative and legislative advocacy and barred legal aid programs from participating in class action litigation. The laws severely restricted critical legal advocacy and representation of the poor by Colorado's Legal Services Programs.

The Colorado Lawyers' Trust Account Foundation (COLTAF) provided funds to establish an independent non-profit to continue the work that federally funded legal services agencies could no longer do, forming the Colorado Center on Law and Policy in 1999. Since then, CCLP has become a leader in the advocacy community and in working with key stakeholders. Through its work on health care, welfare reform, fiscal policy and other critical issues, CCLP has gained a strong reputation in providing litigation, research, education, and advocacy on behalf of lower-income Coloradans, policymakers, opinion-leaders, non-profit organizations and the general public.

COLORADO FISCAL POLICY INSTITUTE

The Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute (COFPI) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan project of the Colorado Center on Law and Policy. As both a resource and catalyst, COFPI works for changes in public policy through timely, credible and accessible fiscal policy analysis, education, advocacy and coalition-building.

Colorado's fiscal landscape is uniquely flawed, with a web of constitutional and statutory constraints that are unsustainable as well as a perpetual revenue crisis that has devastated public investment. Colorado lags behind most every other state in virtually every critical area, such as education, health care, higher education, and transportation. The current recession has further exposed the structural failures of our fiscal and tax system.

In both 2008 and 2009, COFPI reaffirmed its role as the leading research and advocacy group on state fiscal issues. COFPI has proven to be a key convener, resource, and catalyst on the state's most important fiscal challenges including: combating budget cuts, the Amendment 59 campaign, the repeal of Arveschoug-Bird, federal stimulus analysis, and providing new revenue options.

Going forward, the state's fiscal crisis promises to deepen, which serves to reinforce the unique role played by COFPI as the state addresses both short-term revenue problems and long-term tax modernization.

As Colorado faces unending fiscal challenges, COFPI is dedicated to taking on those challenges and finding innovative ways to create a better, fairer fiscal landscape for all Coloradans

■ JOINT LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD PRESIDENT

Change has been a dominant theme at CCLP and COFPI in recent years: the economic landscape, the budget picture, the political environment, focused attention on our issues, our offices, and even our own staff.

The ongoing budget crisis, federal health reform, and the economic recession have elevated our key issues, making our work more important now than ever before. We have seen new arrivals on our team, bittersweet departures, and arguably our most successful legislative session ever.

Our founding director, Maureen Farrell-Stevenson, bid us farewell as she embarked on a wonderful new opportunity with a national child advocacy organization. Her leadership and guidance over the last decade left CCLP in the strongest position possible.

As we march ahead in our tenth year, we can't help but think back to the beginning of CCLP, with just a couple of staff members in a cramped office, and a firm belief in the mission of working toward justice and economic security for all Coloradans.

Since then, we've experienced tremendous growth in the capacity, the influence, and the results of CCLP's work. What started with a few talented and passionate people has evolved into one of Colorado's leading research and advocacy organizations.

In 2008, we came closer than ever before to getting an earned income tax credit through the legislature. We also worked with the Governor and state leaders to take more steps toward expanding health care coverage, and embarked on a statewide outreach campaign to highlight VisionKEI, the online

Colorado Self-Sufficiency Standard calculator. We continued our watchdog role as well, monitoring the State's compliance with the CBMS settlement agreement, and working with counties to make sure they deliver life-sustaining benefits to Coloradans in need. We helped the Amendment 59 coalition with online communications, canvassing, phone banks, and visibility efforts. And we joined other members of the Colorado C3 Roundtable in an historic voter education and mobilization effort in the final days of the election, successfully fighting against bad ballot initiatives like Amendments 46 and 47, which could have turned into an all-out assault on Coloradans.

In 2009, we worked to establish a permanent legislative task force on poverty reduction (HB09-1064), protect and lift certain restrictions on benefits for legal immigrants (SB09-266, HB09-1353), expand access to health care for children and low income Coloradans (HB09-1293), strengthen and expand unemployment insurance (SB09-247) and improve foreclosure assistance for homeowners (HB09-1276). COFPI led a large coalition in repealing an outdated budget formula, the 6% Arveschoug-Bird provision, which has shackled Colorado's ability to set budget priorities for nearly twenty years (SB09-228).

More recently, we have provided research, testimony, and technical support to the Commission on Long Term Fiscal Stability and the Economic Opportunity and Poverty Reduction Task Force. We have been a key member of a broad coalition dedicated to passing national health care reform, and in doing so published an innovative study on health care affordability. Our findings helped inform the current debate in Congress. We have fought tooth and nail to combat misguided budget cuts, while also providing balanced revenue solutions

to help reverse the state's fiscal crisis. We are also one of the key conveners for the Colorado Reform Roundtable, an unprecedented broad-based coalition of organizations focused on long-term fiscal and revenue reform.

We highlight these accomplishments to demonstrate that this work—our work—matters. It matters to an unemployed worker who got a few more checks in the mail to help pay the bills. It matters to a low-income child who can get the health care he or she needs. It matters to a working family faced with losing their home. And it matters to every family in Colorado struggling to make ends meet and working toward economic self-sufficiency.

Change does not come easily, and it does not happen by accident. It took the work of all of us, the coordination of our important coalition partners, and the tremendous support of all of you. As Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals."

At CCLP, we honor and thank all the dedicated individuals, including all of our generous donors, supporters, volunteers, and wonderful partners, that we are so fortunate to work with every day to make Colorado a better place.

Sincerely,

Nan Morehead Interim Board President T.A. Taylor-Hunt, Esq.
Interim Executive Director

WE'VE MOVED!

OUR NEW ADDRESS IS
789 SHERMAN ST., #300
DENVER, CO 80203



■ 2008-2009 ACCOMPLISHMENTS ■

Health Care

- Authored an innovative new report, with partners from Colorado Voices for Coverage, titled *The Cost of Care: Can Coloradans Afford Health Care*, that has helped inform the national health care debate surrounding affordability for health care consumers. This is the most comprehensive state-based work on health care affordability in the country.
- Worked to promote federal health care reform by maintaining regular contact with our federal delegation about key issues, most significantly, affordability, benefits adequacy and Medicaid integrity. Coordinated regularly on strategy and shared information with other state and national advocacy groups, produced and disseminated weekly informational updates. Placed op-eds and other pieces in various media sources, served as a contact and resource for the press, and made presentations on reform.
- Organized in 2008, and continue to staff and coordinate the Health Advocates Alliance, a coalition of consumer advocates and health care providers. HAA works together on, and is committed to a common vision of a Road to Health Reform for Colorado.
- Provided technical support and assistance during the 2009 Colorado legislative session on conversations and bills focused on larger scale reform. Supported the Hospital Provider Fee (HB09-1293), and won several amendments having to do with separation

- of powers and protecting eligibility for current Medicaid eligibles.
- Supported the reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program and played a major role in eliminating the 5 year bar for immigrant children and pregnant women in Colorado, pursuant to a state option included in the reauthorization. Once implemented, 8,375 lawful immigrant children and pregnant women will be eligible for Medicaid and CHIP.
- Helped to engage, coordinate, and mobilize the health care community around SB09-228, the repeal of Arveschoug-Bird, which limited the state's ability to recover from the recession and make needed investments in health care services
- Successfully fought against efforts to cut funding for critical health care and other state safety net services, and worked closely with COFPI to combat the continued erosion in health care funding.
- Played a significant role in developing the recommendations for reform produced by the Blue Ribbon Commission on Health Care Reform, which were delivered to the General Assembly in early 2008. Our Health Care Program Director represented consumers on the Commission as co-Chair of the Outreach and Communications Committee. CCLP has continued to support the Governor's Building Blocks for Health Care Reform and other reform initiatives based on the Commission's recommendations.

Self-Sufficiency

- Coordinated staffing for the Economic Opportunity and Poverty Reduction Task Force (HB09-1064). This is a ten year legislative commitment to increase economic opportunity for Colorado families moving towards economic self-sufficiency. This year's successes include the development of eight proposed bills on housing, education, child care, job creation and removing systemic barriers for families accessing public assistance programs.
- Increased public awareness and grassroots efforts for the successful passage HB09-1276. HB09-1276 legislation expanded foreclosure assistance for Colorado homeowners and was sponsored by the Governor's Office in light of the burgeoning housing crisis.
- Expanded the use of the Colorado Self-Sufficiency Standard as an evaluation tool for government and non-profit programs addressing economic opportunity for Colorado families
- Expanded the use of the Colorado Self-Sufficiency Standard Calculator as an eligibility tool for Colorado residents seeking access to public assistance.
 Re-marketing this calculator increased "internet hits" by 500 a day.
- Organized and lead the Evaluation Committee for the Bank On Denver program. Bank On Denver is a city-initiated program to address the financial education needs of currently unbanked Denver households. The objective

- of this group is to remove barriers to family economic self-sufficiency through asset building.
- Expanded numerous programs, from marketing and outreach to strategy and implementation, including participation on the Denver Economic Prosperity Task Force, the ARRA Watchdog Coalition, the Child Care Learning Group Sponsored by the Women's Foundation of Colorado and the Colorado PEAK Outreach Committee sponsored by the Governor's Office of Information Technology.
- Delivered over 40 presentations on Family Economic Self-Sufficiency to community groups, counties, youth groups and partner coalitions.
- Continued tracking and working to correct deficiencies in the Colorado Benefits Management System, specifically addressing outreach and eligibility efforts in food stamp (SNAP) and the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) programs.

Fiscal Program/Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute

- Led a coalition of nearly 100 organizations that helped pass landmark budget reform legislation (SB09-228) repealing Arveschoug-Bird, which severely limited the state's ability to respond to and recover from recessions.
- Passed critical reforms to the Colorado's unemployment insurance program (SB09-247) that will allow the state to draw down

- \$127.5 million in new federal recovery funds, strengthen the solvency of the unemployment insurance trust fund, and provide immediate benefits to thousands of unemployed Colorado workers and the economy.
- Served as the go-to source for legislators, media and the public on information about closing tax loopholes, ending inefficient exemptions and strengthening tax compliance. COFPI was the only agency to offer concrete solutions for raising revenue in order to mitigate harmful budget cuts. The Governor proposed a number of these options in his November 2009 budget request.
- Offered the first concise analysis of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for policymakers, staff, nonprofits, the media and the public. COFPI quickly mobilized a small group of advocates to ensure that Colorado did everything needed during the session to maximize federal stimulus dollars. These efforts have transformed into a standing coalition of diverse groups, working together to see that Colorado implements ARRA in a transparent, accountable and equitable manner.
- Published dozens of written materials, including an update on Aiming for the Middle, which outlined how Colorado lags behind other states in key areas of public investment, and Looking Forward, a collaborative project with the Bell Policy Center and the Colorado Children's Campaign that predicts Colorado's fiscal landscape after the five-year TABOR timeout from Referendum C.

2008-2009 ACCOMPLISHMENTS CONTINUED

- Hosted more than 150 advocates, public officials, nonprofit leaders, and foundation representatives at the annual Budget Works forum, where attendees got an introductory look at Colorado's budget crisis and the impending recession.
- Reached deeper into the community by presenting at more than 125 public forums around the state on issues such as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, state budget crisis, TABOR, Earned Income Tax Credit, Self-Sufficiency, hunger, poverty, and more.
- One of ten leading organizations in charge of convening the Colorado Reform Roundtable, which is a large-scale coalition of groups from across the policy and political spectrum that is working on long-term fiscal and revenue reform.
- Coordinated with the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and other national partners to defeat TABOR-like proposals in other states around the country

Litigation

- Organized a wide array of legal experts to support the fact that Arveschoug-Bird was a statutory, not a constitutional change.
- Submitted amicus briefs on two key Colorado Supreme Court decisions, including the mill levy stabilization case and Lobato v. State of Colorado.
- Continued serving as a watchdog on the state's lackluster efforts to fulfill the December 2007

- settlement agreement on the lawsuit involving the Colorado Benefits Management System (CBMS). CCLP continues to monitor the State's compliance with the settlement and progress towards fixing CBMS to ensure timely processing of applications and distribution of accurate benefit amounts.
- Continued assisting on litigation involving the sale of two Denver-area Exempla hospitals to a Catholic health care group.

Communications

In the News

• Stories featuring CCLP, COFPI, and key issues the agency works on appeared in nearly every major media outlet in Colorado, including the Denver Post, Rocky Mountain News, New York Times, 9News, 7News, CBS4 Denver, Univision, Associated Press, Colorado Public Radio, KGNU, Public News Service, Denver Business Journal, Denver Daily News, Pueblo Chieftain, Durango Herald, Alamosa Valley Courier, Colorado Springs Gazette, Fort Collins Coloradoan, Greeley Tribune, Grand Junction Sentinel, Aspen Daily Times, Montrose Daily Press, Boulder Daily Camera, and more. From 2007 to 2009, CCLP/COFPI tripled the number of mainstream media hits.

Online Media

 Increased presence online by appearing on news web sites and blogs such as ColoradoPols.com, Colorado Confidential, SquareState, and ProgressNow Action Blog, and continued to expand the agency's database for email campaigns. Thousands of subscribers receive newsletters, Action Alerts, Issue Briefs, and other materials.

Website

• CCLP's web presence continued to evolve, with new platforms such as Facebook and the agency blog, *Colorado Policy Matters*. The agency website averages hundreds of hits each day, and serves as a key portal to critical research, policy information and the self-sufficiency calculator.

"THE ALL FAMILIES DESERVE A CHANCE (AFDC) COALITION BRINGS PASSION AND COMMITMENT TO

ADVOCATING FOR POLICY CHANGE ON BEHALF OF LOW INCOME PEOPLE. BUT WE CANNOT SUCCEED

WITHOUT THE LEGAL, FISCAL AND TECHNICAL ANALYSIS OF ISSUES PROVIDED BY THE COLORADO CENTER

ON LAW AND POLICY AND THE COLORADO FISCAL POLICY INSTITUTE. THEY HELP PROVIDE US CREDIBILITY

WITH OUR SUPPORTERS IN THE LEGISLATURE, AND TOOLS TO COUNTER OPPOSITION TO OUR ISSUES. "

- CHAER ROBERT, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER, ALL FAMILIES DESERVE A CHANCE COALITION

■ CCLP STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY | YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 ■

| SUPPORT & REVENUE | UNRESTRICTED | TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED | TOTAL |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Contributions | \$43,169 | \$1,482,035 | \$1,525,204 |
| In-kind contributions | \$60,735 | \$0 | \$60,735 |
| Earned income | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Dividend and interest income | \$5,876 | \$0 | \$5,876 |
| Legal fee reimbursement | \$161,679 | \$0 | \$161,679 |
| Net assets released from restrictions | \$1,232,954 | (\$1,232,954) | \$0 |
| Other income | \$11,431 | \$0 | \$11,431 |
| TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE | \$1,515,844 | \$249,081 | \$1,764,925 |
| Expenses COFPI program | \$591,830 | \$0 | \$591,830 |
| Welfare program | \$112,873 | \$0 | \$112,873 |
| Health care program | \$545,124 | \$0 | \$545,124 |
| Management and general | \$219,363 | \$0 | \$219,363 |
| Fundraising | \$24,376 | \$0 | \$24,376 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$1,493,566 | \$0 | \$1,493,566 |
| Change in Net Assets | \$22,278 | \$249,081 | \$271,359 |
| Net Assets Beginning of year | \$230,735 | \$511,312 | \$742,047 |
| NET ASSETS END OF YEAR | \$253,013 | \$760,393 | \$1,013,406 |

■ CCLP STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION | YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 ■

| ASSETS | |
|--|-------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$556,922 |
| Accounts receivable | \$0 |
| Current portion of grants receivable | \$305,000 |
| Deposits and prepaid expenses | \$7,850 |
| Net property and equipment | \$40,333 |
| Grants receivable, net of current portion | \$125,000 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$1,035,105 |

| LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| LIABILITIES | |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | \$21,699 |
| Accounts payable pass-through grants | \$0 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | \$21,699 |
| | |
| NET ASSETS | |
| Unrestricted | \$253,013 |
| Temporarily Restricted | \$760,393 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$1,013,406 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | \$1,035,105 |



"COFPI IS AN INCREDIBLE PARTNER FOR A LAWMAKER. THEY COMBINE HIGH QUALITY RESEARCH WITH PRACTICAL, STRATEGIC ADVOCACY. COFPI'S LEADERSHIP ON ARVESCHOUG BIRD REFORM WAS INDISPENSIBLE."

- SENATOR JOHN P. MORSE, SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

■ CCLP DONORS MAKE IT ALL POSSIBLE

Foundations

Aloha Foundation

The Annie E. Casey Foundation

Brett Family Foundation

Caring for Colorado Foundation

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Chambers Family Foundation

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

Colorado Bar Foundation

Colorado Community Health Network

The Colorado Health Foundation

Colorado Lawyer Trust

Account Foundation

The Colorado Trust

The Denver Foundation

Donnell-Kay Foundation Energy Outreach Colorado

Family Homestead

The Gill Foundation

The Humphrey's Foundation

Knight Foundation

Mile High United Way Open Society Institute

Piton Foundation

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Charitable Foundation

Rose Community Foundation
Women's Foundation of Colorado

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Frane Yehle

Volunteers and Friends Andy Bardwell Mary DeGroot David Ducharme Ed Kahn, Esq. Adam Kretz Tom Swanson Les Young And a special thanks to former CCLP staff members, Laura Oldright, Marty Esquibel, Elizabeth Feder, Nilmini Hecox, Scott Downes, Andy White, and Maureen Farrell-Stevenson, who left our team for other pursuits. We wish them well in all their endeavors ahead.



2009 Board of Directors

From the entire CCLP staff, a special note of thanks to our Board of Directors for their continued hard work, support, and commitment toward our mission.

Nan Morehead Interim Board President

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Molly Ryan, Esq. Secretary

Frank Brainerd, Esq. Treasurer

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Elisabeth Arenales, Esq. Health Care Director

Rita Young

Director of Administration

Adela Flores-Brennan, Esq. Health Care Attorney

Sharon Stevenson Health Care Policy Analyst

Kathy White Project Director, Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute

Carol Hedges Senior Fiscal Policy Analyst, Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute

Tracey Stewart
Self-Sufficiency Project Coordinator

Alec Harris Policy Analyst, Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute

Mark Nueman-Lee Public Interest Fellow, Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute

Ali Mickelson Tax Policy Analyst, Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute

Ed Kahn, Esq. Special Counsel



Justice and Economic Security for all Coloradans

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