



COLORADO CENTER
on LAW & POLICY

2010

ANNUAL REPORT



Highlights from a year of advancing justice and economic security for all Coloradans

- The **Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute** played a major role in defeating Amendment 60, Amendment 61 and Proposition 101, tax-cutting ballot measures that would have badly damaged economic opportunity for Colorado families. *Details on page 2.*
- The **Health Care Program** led a coalition of advocates, providers and other groups in implementing national health care reform, and helped defeat Amendment 63, a measure seeking to undermine reform. *Details on page 3.*
- The **Family Economic Security Program** helped pass laws that support economic independence such as a measure shifting rules for child care assistance to provide families uninterrupted participation for up to a year. *Details on page 4.*
- The **Litigation Program** achieved a major settlement with state agencies, requiring the state to meet benchmarks for improving the timeliness of processing public benefits applications. *Details on page 3.*

About the Colorado Center on Law and Policy

The Colorado Center on Law and Policy (CCLP) has more than a decade of experience as one of Colorado's leading advocacy organizations dedicated to promoting justice, economic security, access to health care and sound fiscal policies.

CCLP is a leader in the advocacy community. We provide policymakers, opinion leaders, nonprofit organizations and the general public with research and education about issues of import to lower-income Coloradans; we advocate in the legislature and before executive decision makers on behalf of those issues, and we litigate them when necessary.

CCLP provides:

- Research and independent legal and policy analysis.
- Education and civic engagement with diverse communities.
- Advocacy on behalf of lower-income Coloradans.
- Litigation and legal action for systemic change.

Helping shape the statewide discussion of responsible, fair tax and budget policy

The Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute (COFPI) during 2010 led a reorienting of the state's policy discussions away from a cuts-only approach to balancing the state budget, instead favoring a balanced approach that includes new revenue. Facing a near \$1 billion budget deficit (of a \$6.6 billion General Fund budget), and the loss of help from the federal government looming, Colorado lawmakers were in need of some creative revenue solutions. COFPI provided those solutions. The General Assembly adopted a dozen proposals that were projected to save the state more than \$450 million in revenue over the next three years, preventing cuts to services for struggling families and children.

Another major accomplishment during 2010 was the defeat of three tax-cutting ballot measures, Amendment 60, Amendment 61 and Proposition 101. COFPI staff members made 106 presentations to community groups explaining how the measures would damage the state. COFPI also set up a website that served as a central location to house research, analysis and other materials that could be used by the partners, their allies and citizens across the state.

COFPI worked closely with partners in the Looking Forward Collaborative to design and launch an aggressive public education campaign about effects the 2010 ballot measures would have on local communities, the state

and Colorado families. As one of 10 conveners of the Colorado Reform Roundtable, a fiscal reform coalition of more than 100 diverse organizations, COFPI led the way in bringing the state to consensus on the need for a tax increase initiative. COFPI continued to educate and engage a diverse group of grassroots community organizations about fiscal reform. The groups include the Civic Engagement Roundtable, Communities for Public Education Reform and the Colorado Community Organizing Collaborative.

In January 2010, COFPI presented its 10th annual Budget Works conference. In combination with COFPI's other efforts, the Budget Works event has created a sophisticated fiscal policy consumer in Colorado. Budget Works 2010 gave nearly 200 advocates and policymakers their first in-depth look at alternatives to a "cuts-only" strategy for balancing the budget as well as tools to move that agenda.

COFPI also took the lead in supporting a handful of policies that would help low-income families and struggling workers. One proposal returned the state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to the first-priority TABOR refund mechanism. Another created a work-share program in the unemployment insurance system. The program permits employers to establish workshare programs as an alternative to employee layoffs.

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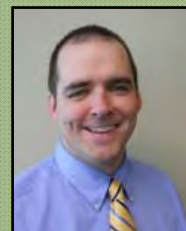
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Praise for the Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute

"Ali Mickelson's presentation on tax expenditures was exactly what I needed. She helped me understand some complex issues and counter some concerns that come up all the time. You all provide a really valuable service." Danny Katz, state director, Colorado Public Interest Research Group, Aug. 29, 2010.

"Ali and Alec were indispensable in putting together a number for HB 1263, the salary de-

duction cap bill. They were a huge help, and it was great to have a methodology I could believe in already put together. You've got some really good staffers there," Natalie Mullis, chief economist, Colorado Legislative Council, Feb. 10, 2010.

"Thank you for taking the time to speak to students, faculty and staff at Anschutz Medical Center. Your information on Amendments 60,

61 and Proposition 101 was well-delivered and vital for the upcoming election. Thanks you for being neutral and providing the facts," Susan Evans, advocacy program director, Colorado Area Health Education Centers Program Office, in a letter to Mark Neuman-Lee, Oct. 6, 2010.

Leading the fight for affordable, accessible, quality health care for all Coloradans

The major focus of CCLP's Health Care Program during 2010 was working with state and national allies for passage and implementation of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. That monumental reform will, once fully implemented, make health insurance available to more than 500,000 currently uninsured Coloradans. If implemented well, it also will reduce costs and increase access to care for those already insured. CCLP worked to educate Coloradans, including policymakers, about the health reform law, is a leader in advocating for the establishment of a consumer-friendly health insurance exchange, and continued to be a leader in protecting access to Medicaid and Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+).

CCLP protected access to Medicaid for more than 2,700 low-income parents by identifying a misinterpretation of federal Medicaid eligibility law by the state and working with the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing to correct it.

CCLP defended access to the Old Age Pension Program. While a law passed that made severe cuts to legal immigrants' eligibility for the program, CCLP worked diligently with partners to mitigate harm to the most vulnerable Old Age Pensioners. The Health Care Program successfully advocated for the inclusion of hardship exemptions in the legislation and monitored the exemptions through the rule-making and implementation process.

In the November 2010 election, CCLP played a major role in defeating proposed Amendment 63, which was designed to undermine implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in Colorado.

CCLP coordinated the Health Advocates Alliance, a large coalition of health care advocates and providers who in 2010 crafted working principles for the development of Colorado's Health Insurance Exchange.

CCLP made 33 presentations to more than 865 people across the state about the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The Health Care Program team also produced a weekly *Health Law and Policy Update* newsletter that provided up-to-date and accurate information about provisions of the law.

CCLP played a major role in passing a State False Claims Act. The act, patterned on federal law, permits whistleblowers to complain of fraud by state or federal contractors. It is estimated the law will bring in more than \$1 million annually, and it should deter fraud in many times that amount. The law was strongly supported by the Department of the Health Care Policy and Financing, which administers many state and federally financed programs.

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Litigation Program achieves major settlement in CBMS case

CCLP's Litigation Program continued to monitor efforts at the state Department of Human Services and Department of Health Care Policy and Financing to fulfill obligations under a December 2007 settlement agreement on the lawsuit involving the Colorado Benefits Management System (CBMS). State workers use the system to process applications and redeterminations for public benefits programs. Due to the state's continued failure to comply with

the settlement and legal obligations to timely process public benefits applications, CCLP and its co-counsel filed a motion for Enforcement and Contempt against the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing. After prolonged negotiations, two amended settlement agreements were negotiated, putting into place compliance targets and deadlines for timely processing new applications and redeterminations. CCLP will continue to monitor compliance.

Praise for the Health Care Program

"I am a physician, mostly retired now ... Your organization has been a wealth of knowledge for us in many respects. My role has been to follow the Legislature, and I resource you often. Thanks." Respondent to a survey of readers of *Health Law and Policy Update*, December 2010.

"Having your information in my back pocket has helped me countless times in arguments. Thanks!" Another survey respondent.

"Your presentation was extremely well done and very timely. We really appreciate that you took time out of your busy schedule to inform us about all the changes in health care. I know

this information will help us, not only personally, but in our daily work with children and families." Dr. Heather Taussig, associate professor of pediatrics and psychiatry, University of Colorado School of Medicine, Sept. 14, 2010.

"Adela - wanted to thank you again for sharing your expertise with my class last week. Not only are you a wonderful educator, you are an amazing role model to every student in the room. ... I understand from the group that you have inspired a number of them," Prof. Kim A. Gorgens, University of Denver Graduate School of Professional Psychology, Nov. 2, 2010.

Promoting a deeper understanding of poverty, advancing policies that support economic security

The goal of the Economic Self-Sufficiency Program (recently renamed the Family Economic Security Program) during 2010 was to saturate the state with the importance of using Self-Sufficiency Standard for Colorado as criteria for building an economically stronger state. To date, the Self-Sufficiency Standard for Colorado is in use by 13 counties and 37 agencies. In 2010, program staff participated in 50 presentations including the statewide housing workforce development conferences. In the fall, CCLP co-hosted the regional Building Bridges to Economic Security Conference with Wider Opportunities for Women. The conference launched a national campaign supporting alternatives to the current measure of family financial health and stability.

Changing the name to the Family Economic Security Program, completed in February 2011, reflected an expansion of the continuum of financial stability to include economic security throughout the lifespan of a household.

As the Family Economic Security Program continued to expand in 2010, staff presentations were supplemented by invitations to assist or consult in the implementation of initiatives and programs to help families move to economic independence. CCLP also continued to support the statewide Economic Opportunity Poverty Reduction Task Force. During the 2010 interim session, the workgroups for the task force focused on employment, consumer protection and education drafted proposed bills with legislative chairs. New policy to support families as they move toward economic security included:

- A measure increasing the inventory of affordable housing units, which supports the ability of low-income families to live near where they work. House Bill 10-1017 also provides an economic boost

for cities and counties that support developers willing to build affordable housing.

- A bill shifting eligibility rules for child care assistance to provide families uninterrupted participation for up to a year.

In 2010, the Family Economic Security Program staff also convened the Kellogg Foundation/Women's Foundation of Colorado Cliff Effect Learning Group, examining the cost of child care across the state. The program continued to chair the Bank on Denver evaluation committee, contributed to the Denver Human Rights Commission poverty report and was awarded the role of the state lead organizer for the Wider Opportunity for Women Elder Index Initiative.

CCLP is publishing a self-sufficiency standard outlining the costs for aging in place throughout Colorado. The report will complement the 2011 update of the Economic Self-Sufficiency Standard for Colorado.

Family Economic Security Program staff



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Praise for the Family Economic Security Program

"Such a concise and insightful explanation of the economic factors that impact the social reality of poverty."

"Appreciated that she was not shy about putting difficult subjects out and using powerful statistics to encourage thoughts on tough subjects."

"Nice treatment of the issues and 'peeling the onion' to understand the root causes of homelessness, poverty and the working poor."

Participants in a Leadership Denver "Poverty Day" class convened by the Denver Metro Chamber Leadership Foundation, Nov. 29, 2010, on a presentation by Tracey Stewart.

Why 'Family Economic Security'?

The Colorado Center on Law and Policy's Family Economic Security Program seeks to reduce the number of Coloradans living in poverty by promoting economic security through the following strategies:

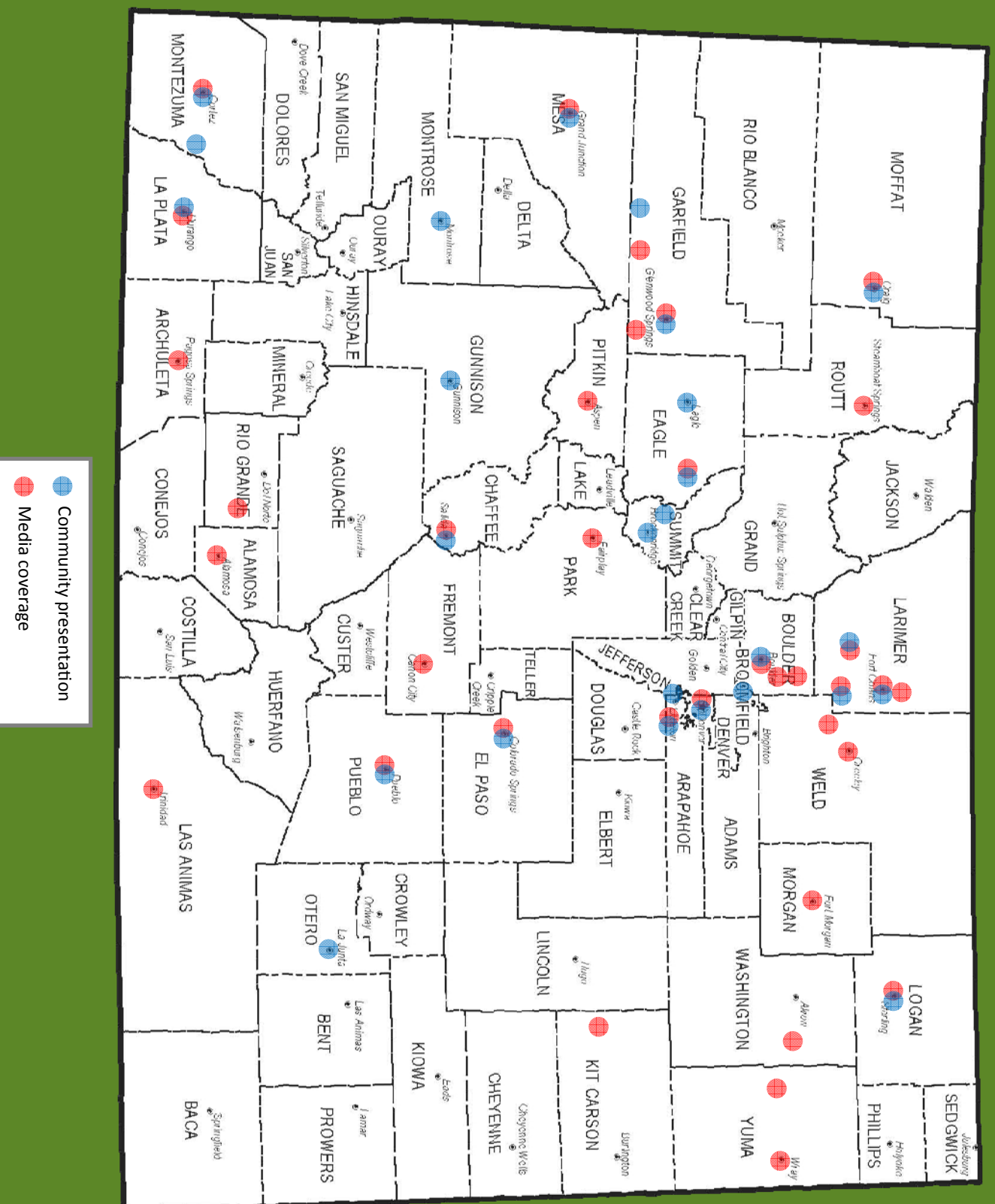
- Monitoring policies and programs that improve access to resources that give every Coloradan the opportunity to work toward economic stability and security.
- Educating state leaders and communities on the importance of helping Coloradans on the road to economic self-sufficiency through the use of critical tools and resources.
- Providing research to inform Colorado

businesses, governments and communities on the progress Colorado is making in its poverty reduction efforts.

Family economic security isn't about welfare. Just the opposite, it's about the economic continuum through the lifespan, including childhood, working years and retirement. We focus on the opportunities a family needs to be economically secure through all phases of life.

To break cycles of poverty and increase cycles of wealth, there are several points at which advocates can intervene to promote a healthy childhood, good opportunities for work and a chance to age in place with dignity. That's where we come in.

A reach across the state in 2010



Analysts for the Colorado Center on Law and Policy blanketed the state in 2010 with information about advancing justice and economic security for all Coloradans. The agency made presentations to more than 225 community groups, policymakers, advocates and others. A sampling of the subjects includes the nation's health reform law, how the federal Recovery Act has affected Colorado and policies that support family economic security.

As communities across Colorado took notice, so did the news media. CCLP's work was mentioned in news and opinion stories at least 740 times during 2010. The agency's work caught the attention of the state's biggest media outlets such as The Denver Post, Colorado Public Radio and KUSA-TV Channel 9, plus many smaller outlets such as The Durango Herald, Craig Daily Press and Pueblo Chieftain.



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We couldn't do our work without you

CCLP depends on generous donors to continue our work for justice and economic security for all Coloradans. To show your support, visit www.cclponline.org/donate.



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Wider Opportunities for Women



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CCLP statement of financial activity

Year ended Dec. 31, 2010

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
Contributions	\$253,639	\$1,244,700	\$1,498,339
In-kind contributions	\$51,771	-	\$51,771
Dividend and interest income	\$193	-	\$193
Other income	\$10,269		\$10,269
Net assets released from restrictions			
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$1,446,875	\$113,697	\$1,560,572
Expenses COFPI program	\$662,114	-	\$662,114
Family Economic Security Program	\$157,363	-	\$157,363
Health Care Program	\$292,889	-	\$292,889
Management and general	\$259,518	-	\$259,518
Fundraising	\$81,371	-	\$81,371
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,453,255	-	\$1,453,255
Change in net assets	(\$6,380)	\$113,697	\$107,317
Net assets beginning of year	\$94,290	\$604,017	\$698,307
NET ASSETS END OF YEAR	\$87,910	\$717,714	\$805,624

ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$330,449
Accounts receivable	-
Grants receivable	\$729,821
Deposits and prepaid expenses	\$12,541
Net property and equipment	\$30,032
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,102,843

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Liabilities	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$70,174
Grants payable	\$227,045
Total liabilities	\$297,219
Net assets	
Unrestricted	\$87,910
Temporarily restricted	\$717,714
Total net assets	\$805,624
Total liabilities and net assets	\$1,102,843

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How you can get involved

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Some of the people who made a difference for justice and economic security in 2010

In June, Interim Executive Director **T. A. Taylor Hunt** completed her work and resumed her role as president of the CCLP Board of Directors. Executive Director **Christine Murphy** joined the agency the same month. Health Policy Analyst **Sharon Stevenson** departed in spring 2010, and Policy Analyst **Alec Harris** in spring 2011. Volunteers and interns also helped CCLP enormously including **Mary DeGroot** for

the Health Care Program and **Andy Cohen** for communications. Valuable legal help for the Colorado Fiscal Policy Institute came from **Dee Wisor** and **Paul Wisor** of Sherman and Howard, LLC, and **Paul Rodney** and **Jim Scarboro** of Arnold and Porter, LLP. **Tom Swanson** helped the Fiscal Policy Institute on federal budget issues. The Family Economic Security Program received vital help from **Adam Musielewicz**, a contrib-

uting author of the Economic Self-Sufficiency Standard for Colorado Refugee Families (due November 2011); **Jennifer Gross**, a Master of Public Health intern who is supporting the Colorado Elder Economic Security Coalition; and **Melissa Bortnem**, a Master of Social Work intern working on the Child Care Learning Group and the Economic Opportunity Poverty Reduction Task Force.

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