



GARY COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS

Working together for Colorado's children



OUR LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Because Gary Community Investments seeks transformative solutions to the issues facing Colorado's low-income children and families, we support policy efforts that have the power to create systemic change in support of our mission. Through this work, we collaborate with various stakeholders to develop common agendas and build public will; fund advocacy efforts; and support policy campaigns needed to achieve success. The following is an overview of our policy priorities.



Young Children: Our primary focus is young children, prenatal to five years old, because we believe that investments in early childhood generate the highest returns. To ensure that children get the best start in life, we support strategies that promote positive child development, including expanded preschool, increased funding for high quality child care, support for the ECE workforce, and evidence-based interventions for parents.



Child Health: We believe that health care access and positive health outcomes for children are necessary for school readiness and ultimately lead to a stronger economy. In an effort to promote physical, mental and oral health in children, we support the maintenance of coverage and benefits for children enrolled in Medicaid and Child Health Plan Plus; advocate for increased funding for state and local agencies to support early childhood mental health; and promote integrated care and coverage for maternal-child health.



Family Economic Security: Because we take a two-generation approach to improving the lives of children, we are committed to helping low-income families reach self-sufficiency through economic opportunity. We support income and asset-building solutions such as the Earned Income Tax Credit and other tax credits for working families; strategies that enable families to more easily access public benefits; and work supports that ensure families stay employed.



Community & Economic Development: We are committed to creating strong, resilient and family-friendly neighborhoods that have the ability to withstand disruptive forces like gentrification and displacement. To help communities build the social capital, infrastructure and access to services needed to create an enduring environment that benefits families, we support community ownership strategies such as cooperatives and community land trusts; advocate for responsible access to capital for businesses and individuals; and promote positive business practices that take into account the well-being of employees' families.



Affordable Housing: We believe that access to affordable housing is integral to creating a safe and stable family environment for children. To help ensure that low-income families have their basic housing needs met, we support opportunities to remove policy barriers and expand dedicated revenue streams for affordable housing. We monitor strategies that affirm fair housing practices and encourage affordable housing access for low-income families.



Data Use & Accessibility: Because we believe data has the power to drive more informed decision-making, we support the smart use of data at the state and local level, including the use of indicators to measure results, and we encourage increased transparency through data accessibility. In addition, we advocate for the collection and use of data to inform policy. Shift Research Lab, a program of The Piton Foundation, is leading our efforts to encourage data use and access, and we welcome additional partners in this work.