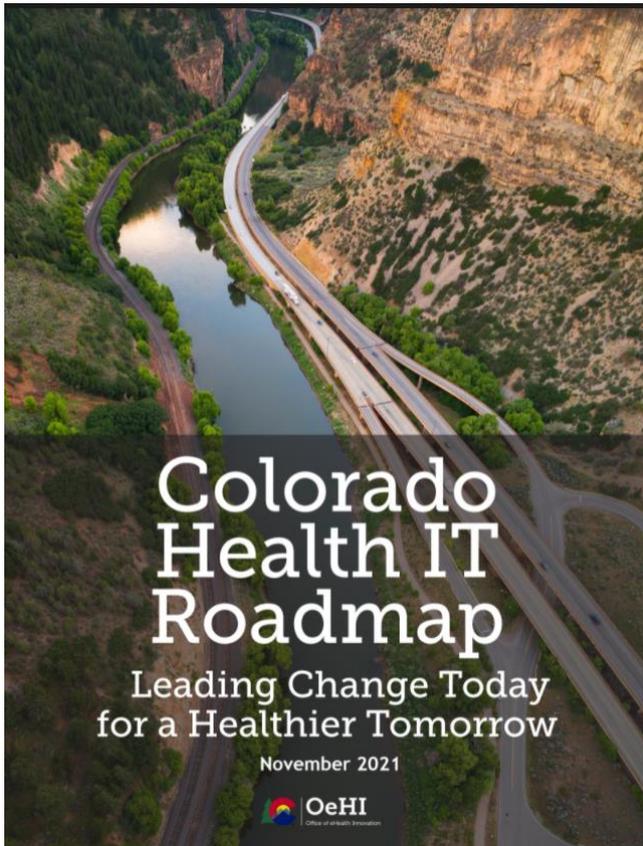


# Advancing Virtual Health Efforts in Colorado

Office of eHealth  
Innovation



# Colorado's Health IT Roadmap



- **EO-15-008:** Established OeHI and eHealth Commission to define and evolve the state's health information technology strategy
- **State strategy** developed in 2018 with broad Stakeholder input-being refreshed
- Guided over **\$50 million** in health IT investments over the past 4 years
- **New goals** focused on **health equity, virtual health and information sharing**
- **Refreshed 2021 Strategy**

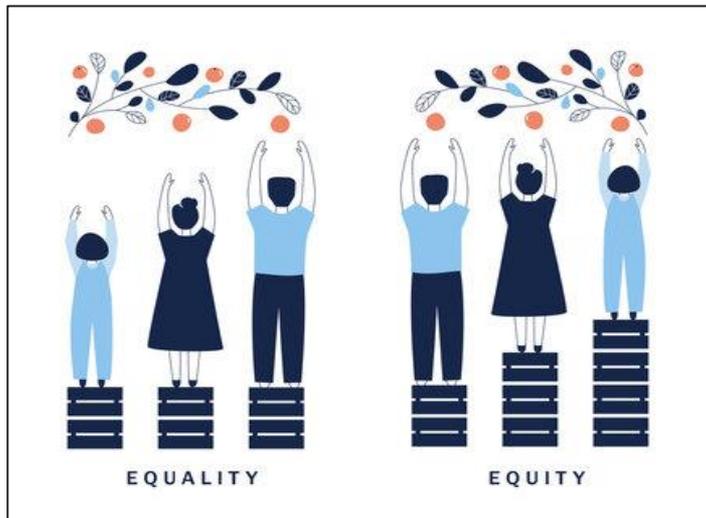
# Advancing Virtual Health

- Innovation Response Taskforce: COVID-19 Response
- [Executive Order D-2020 116](#) and [Senate Bill 20-212](#)
- **What we know about virtual health in Colorado**
  - 2020: 600% increase in telebehavioral health across Colorado
  - 2021: 93% of providers surveyed are using virtual health (telehealth/telebehavioral health)
  - 2021: 39% of providers surveyed are using telebehavioral health
- **Implemented 34 virtual health projects** in partnership with HIEs
  - Focus on innovation, interoperability, and HIE connections
- **Engaged regions** across Colorado in defining **recommendations** for next steps through **Regional Learning Telemedicine Collaboratives**
  - [Final report and recommendations](#)

# Community Recommendations: 2021 and Beyond

- Continued Focus on **Telebehavioral Health**
- **Digital Health Equity**
- **Wifi /Broadband**
- Engage the community in **Human-Centered Design**
- **Innovation Resource Center**  
central location to address questions
- **Interoperability** of virtual and in person information
- **Maintain payment parity**
- Simplify contracting
- Establish **reimbursement** for **eConsults**, including **telepsychiatry**
- Evaluate existing **quality measures, guidelines, standards, and literature**

# Opportunities: Meet Patients Where They Are



“Extremely helpful, especially for people in my situation, as my husband is **unresponsive and comatose** and incredibly difficult to transport.”  
-Patient of Ute Pass Regional Health Service District

# Challenges: Digital Health Equity

- Not all patients or providers have access to devices which facilitate telehealth
- Both patients and providers struggle with telehealth technology
- Language barriers continue to exist and may be amplified without availability of translators

## Black or African American and Hispanic/Latino Coloradans Reported Worse Health

*Percentage reporting fair or poor general health by race/ethnicity, 2021*

**17.3%** Black or African American

**17.0%** Hispanic/Latino

**11.0%** White

**13.7%** American Indian/  
Alaska Native

**16.1%** Asian

**12.6%** Multiracial

**15.9%** Some Other Race

Data for Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, and Middle Eastern/North African were not reported due to sample size.

# Challenge: Broadband

- Rural communities lack access to *reliable* broadband
  - Lower broadband speeds
  - Less access: **1 in 10 households lack broadband**
  - Fewer connected devices: **130,000 households have no digital devices**

“It’s frustrating for providers — you get everything set up for the patient and halfway through the visit they’re frozen. It makes it challenging to have a productive visit.”

*-Health care provider interviewed for telehealth analysis*



# Opportunities: Broadband



- **Reliable broadband in communities is needed to modernize healthcare delivery**
  - EHR & HIE access - non-hospital providers
  - Telehealth
  - Administrative work
- **[HB 21-1289](#) allocates **\$10 million** for broadband enhancement and devices starting in 2022, in partnership with the Colorado Broadband Office**
  - Focus on rural safety net providers and their patients
  - Ensure rural providers can capitalize on virtual care modernization

# Engage and Collaborate



- Monthly eHealth Commission Meetings,  
November 10th, 12:00-2:00 PM
- Contact: [Carrie.Paykoc@state.co.us](mailto:Carrie.Paykoc@state.co.us) or [stephanie.pugliese@state.co.us](mailto:stephanie.pugliese@state.co.us) to join a workgroup or learn more!