

# Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

## SMART Act Hearing

House Energy and Environment Committee  
Senate Transportation and Energy Committee

January 17, 2024

Jill Hunsaker Ryan, MPH  
Executive Director



**COLORADO**  
Department of Public  
Health & Environment

# Introduction of CDPHE Speakers

**Jill Hunsaker Ryan (Director Ryan), MPH**

Executive Director

**Trisha Oeth, JD**

Director of Environmental Health and Protection

**Erick Scheminske**

Chief Operating Officer



**COLORADO**  
Department of Public  
Health & Environment

# CDPHE is committed to serving all Coloradans.

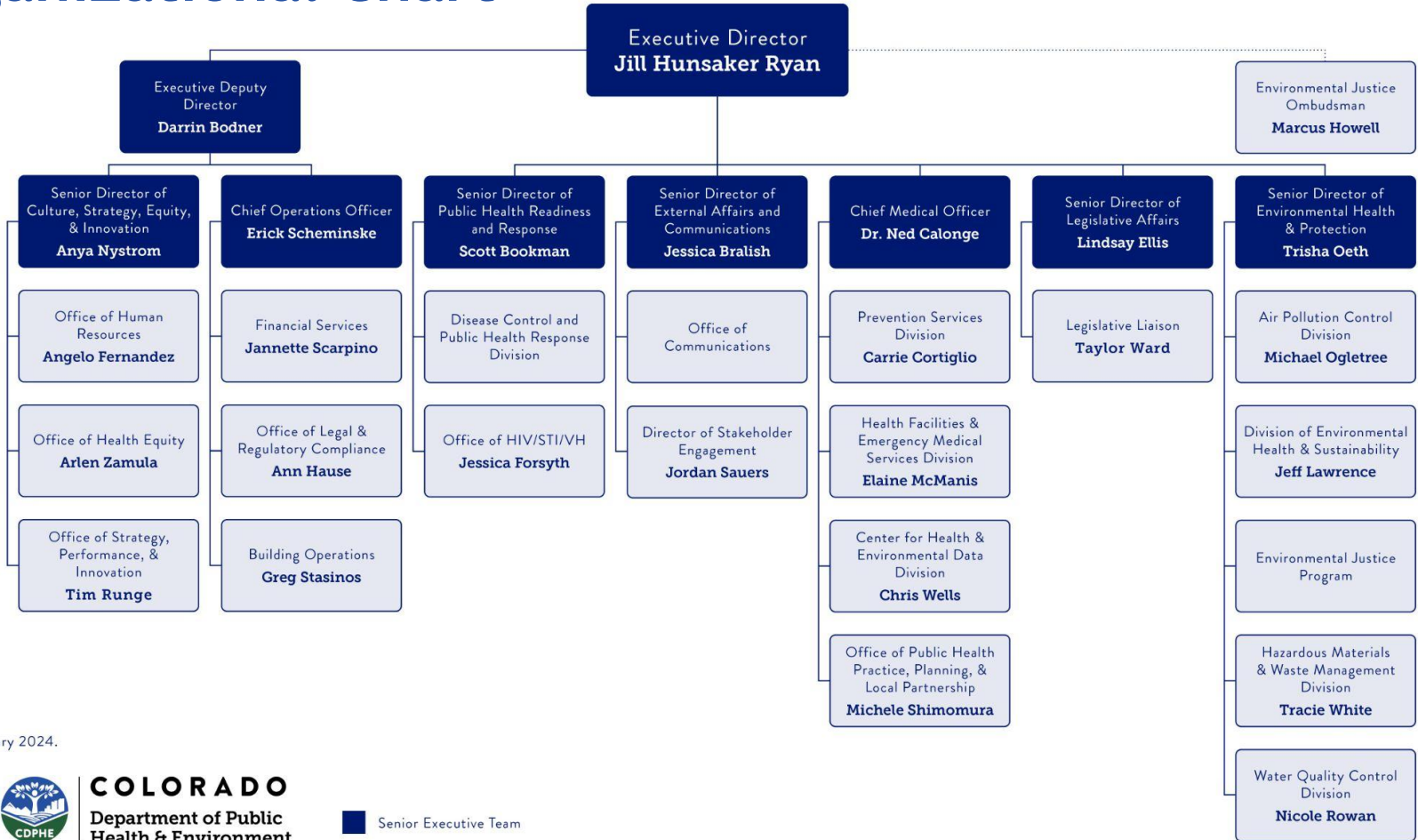
## Our Mission:

Advancing Colorado's health and protecting the places where we live, learn, work, and play.

## Our Vision:

A healthy and sustainable Colorado where current and future generations thrive.

# Organizational Chart



Updated January 2024.



**COLORADO**  
Department of Public Health & Environment

■ Senior Executive Team

# Organizational Structure

2,125 employees | 4 Campuses (Glendale, Lowry, Grand Junction, and Pueblo)

## Divisions

Administration

Air Pollution Control

Center for Health and Environmental Data

Disease Control & Public Health Response/State Lab

Environmental Health & Sustainability

Hazardous Materials & Waste Management

Health Facilities & Emergency Medical Services

Prevention Services

Water Quality Control

## Offices

Communication

Health Equity

HIV/STI/Viral Hepatitis

Human Resources

Legal and Regulatory Compliance

Public Health Practice, Planning, and Local Partnerships

Strategy, Performance, Equity, & Innovation

Gun Violence Prevention



# CDPHE addresses the most pressing challenges in public and environmental health.

## Public Health

- Ground ambulance access/licensing
- Gun violence prevention
- Health equity: Ensuring all Coloradans can thrive
- Increasing immunization rates
- Pandemic preparedness
- Rising rates of syphilis and other STIs
- Increasing RSV respiratory virus transmission
- Suicide prevention
- Sustained COVID-19 response
- Synthetic opioid addiction / fentanyl overdoses
- Quality of care in congregate facilities (i.e., nursing homes)

## Environmental Health

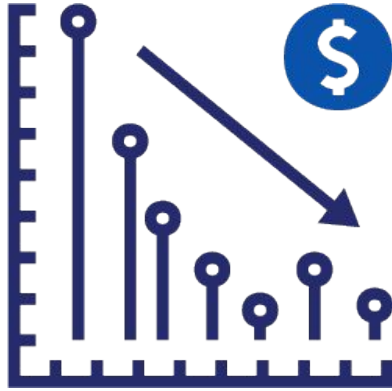
- Air quality/ozone pollution
- Childhood lead poisoning prevention
- Climate change
- Environmental justice
- Environmental toxicology/air toxics
- Hazardous waste exposure / disposal
- Waste diversion / recycling
- Water quality / PFAS



# CDPHE FY 2023-24 Wildly Important Goals (WIGs)



Improving air quality



Creating a framework  
for prevention cost  
savings



Reducing syphilis  
transmission

# Improving Air Quality

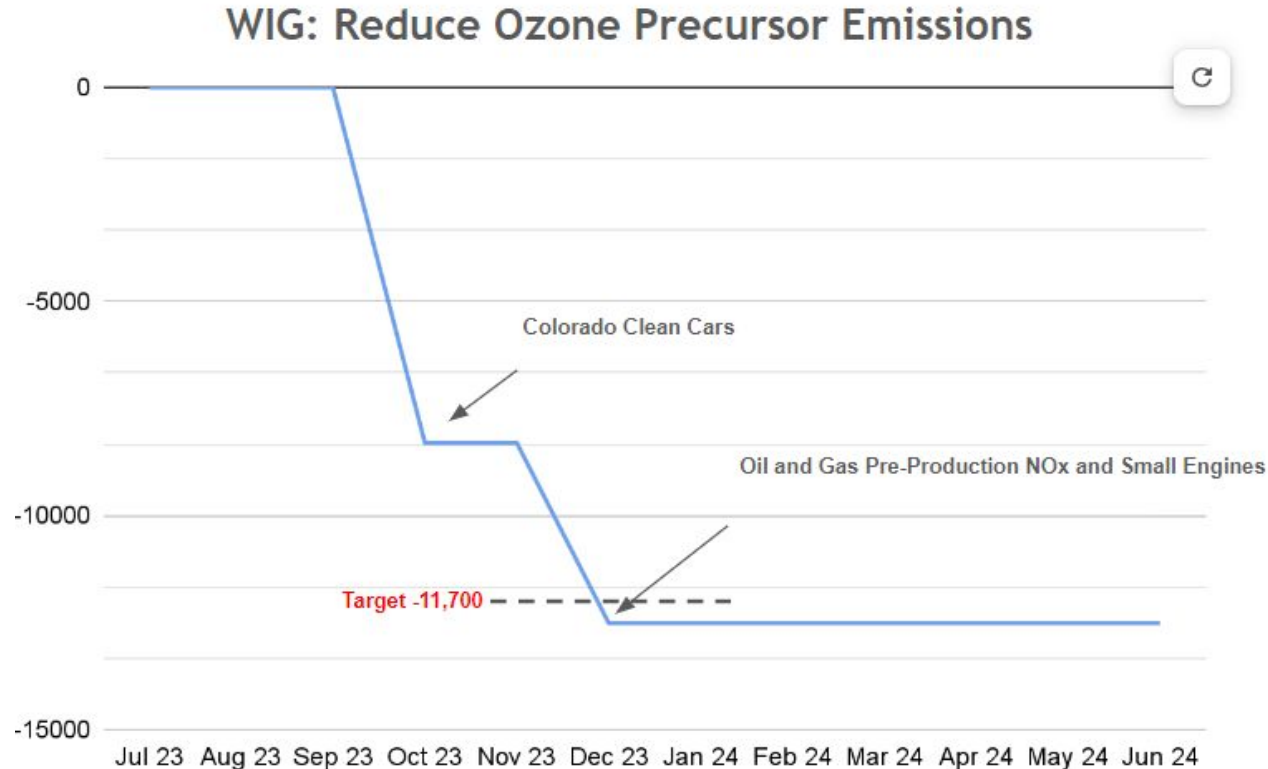


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# WIG 1: Reduce ozone precursor emissions by 11,700 tons per year through new regulatory requirements and air quality programs

Projected Emissions Reductions Associated with Three '23/24 Implemented Regulations:



# CDPHE 2023 Air Quality Accomplishments

- **MINOR SOURCE MODELING:** We established some of the strongest guidelines in the nation for modeling pollution from **minor sources**. These guidelines ensure a source complies with federal laws and state air quality targets, producing cleaner air for all Coloradans.
- **NEW REGULATIONS:** In 2023, the Air Quality Control Commission completed numerous major rulemakings to protect Colorado's air, including:
  - Colorado's first-in-the-world **greenhouse gas intensity standard** for the oil and gas sector.
  - Building performance standards to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions**.
  - Ambitious new programs to **transition cars and trucks to zero-emitting, school bus electrification, and clean vehicle fleets**.
  - Air permitting rules to support communities disproportionately impacted by pollution.
- **AIR TOXICS:** We invested major resources in **regulating air toxics**, which are dangerous pollutants that may cause cancer or other serious health effects. CDPHE has a fleet of five mobile monitoring vehicles it can send to affected neighborhoods to gather data on air pollution. We also use aerial surveys to monitor toxics.

# Air Quality 2024 Look Ahead

- **AIR TOXICS:** Identify high-priority air toxic contaminants and air toxic reporting.
- **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:** Implement enhanced permitting requirements for communities disproportionately impacted by pollution.
- **CLIMATE ACTION:** Update Greenhouse Gas Roadmap and Inventory.
- **REDUCE OZONE:** Reduce nitrogen oxide emissions to improve ozone pollution.
- **OIL & GAS:** Regulation revisions to include the oil and gas midstream segment emission reduction plan.
- **AIR MONITORING:** Increased community monitoring and access to air quality data, building on key accomplishments from last year.
- **AIR QUALITY GRANTS:** Increase grants for electric school buses by school districts, and also for electric trucks and vehicles used by other organizations.

# We are modernizing the Air Division with the right level of expertise.

We have hired a total of 234 staff since April 2022, in accordance with our legislative directives.

- Includes authorized FTE from FY23 budget allocation, approved bills, plus normal turnover and vacancies associated with holding some positions open during early stages of pandemic.
- Total staff levels have increased from a pandemic low level of 175 FTE to 320 FTE.
- Staff turnover has remained low over past 5 years at an average of 9% per year (which is lower than most industry standards).
- Funding provided by General Fund for most of these measures with a plan to transition costs to 1) industry fees or 2) combination of fees and other sources.
- No ARPA funds are being used for Air Pollution Control Division staff.

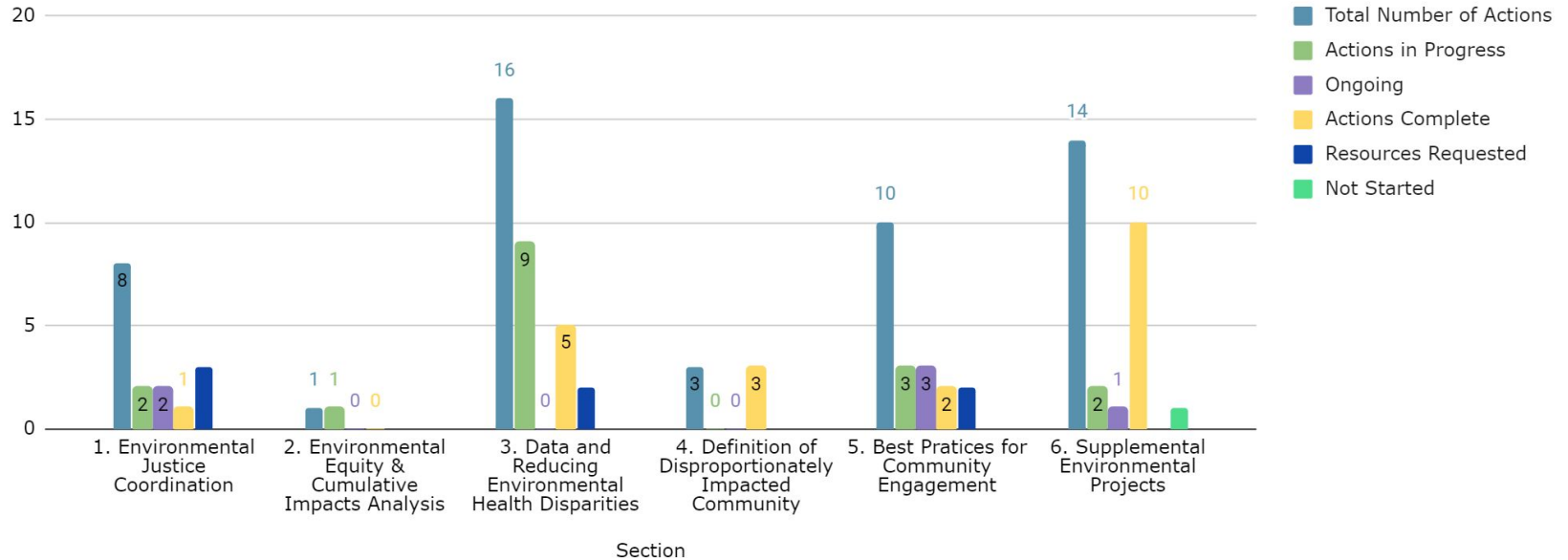
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# Additional Topics of Interest

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# Environmental Justice Action Task Force: Progress Report

Total Number of Actions, Actions in Progress and Actions Complete



[Read the entire Progress Report](#)



# Environmental Justice Programming Updates

- Our Community Connector Program organized ten events in Denver, Commerce City, and Pueblo to discuss air pollution, water pollution, waste management, and other environmental health topics.
- We distributed \$1 million in grant funding to eight organizations as part of its Environmental Justice Grant Program, which aims to fund projects that measure, prevent, or reduce pollution in communities disproportionately impacted by pollution.
- We strengthened our commitment to language justice and community outreach by translating more than 234,000 words for its environmental programs into Spanish. We also provided more than 100 hours of Spanish interpretation at more than 50 community events.



# Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Updates

- U.S. Supreme Court *Sackett v. EPA* decision could remove protections for about 50% of Colorado waters.
- Received \$214,797 in cash fund spending authority from the Construction Sector Cash Fund for FY24 only.
- Funding aims to ensure the state can provide education on and protection of Colorado's wetlands.
- No state agency currently issues dredge and fill permits nor has long-term sustainable funding to address.
- Governor's \$600,000 FY 24-25 budget request - placeholder contemplating dredge and fill legislation.
- Supports development of critical infrastructure while protecting wetlands and our seasonal streams.
- Part of CDPHE's legislative agenda to establish State Dredge and Fill Water Permit Program.



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# Legislative Agenda

*Prioritizing policy changes that ensure the health and safety of all Coloradans.*

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## Establish State Dredge and Fill Water Permit Program

The US Army Corp of Engineers is issuing fewer federal permits for dredge and fill activities following the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Sackett v. EPA, risking irreversible harm to Colorado waterways. This proposal would restore protection to Colorado waterways.

## Sustainable Funding for Health Facility Licensure

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the department has experienced revenue shortfalls due to increases in complaint investigations, the cost of operations, and insufficient funding. This proposal would ensure the state provides quality care to Coloradans who receive care from licensed health facilities.



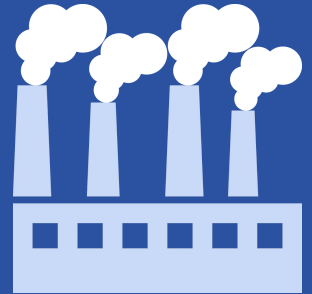


## Update the Pollution Prevention Act of 1992 to Improve Sustainability Services

This proposal would allow communities, businesses, and local governments to benefit from state funding that supports large and long-term recycling and waste diversion projects through the new Colorado Circular Communities Enterprise. It also ensures continued access to resources for businesses seeking more operational sustainability.

## Air Quality Cumulative Impacts and Environmental Justice

There are communities in Colorado that experience a disproportionate amount of environmental health burdens. This proposal would allow the department to study those burdens and cumulative impacts and respond to concerns about air pollution more efficiently. It also allows local governments to limit emissions of air pollutants that affect health.



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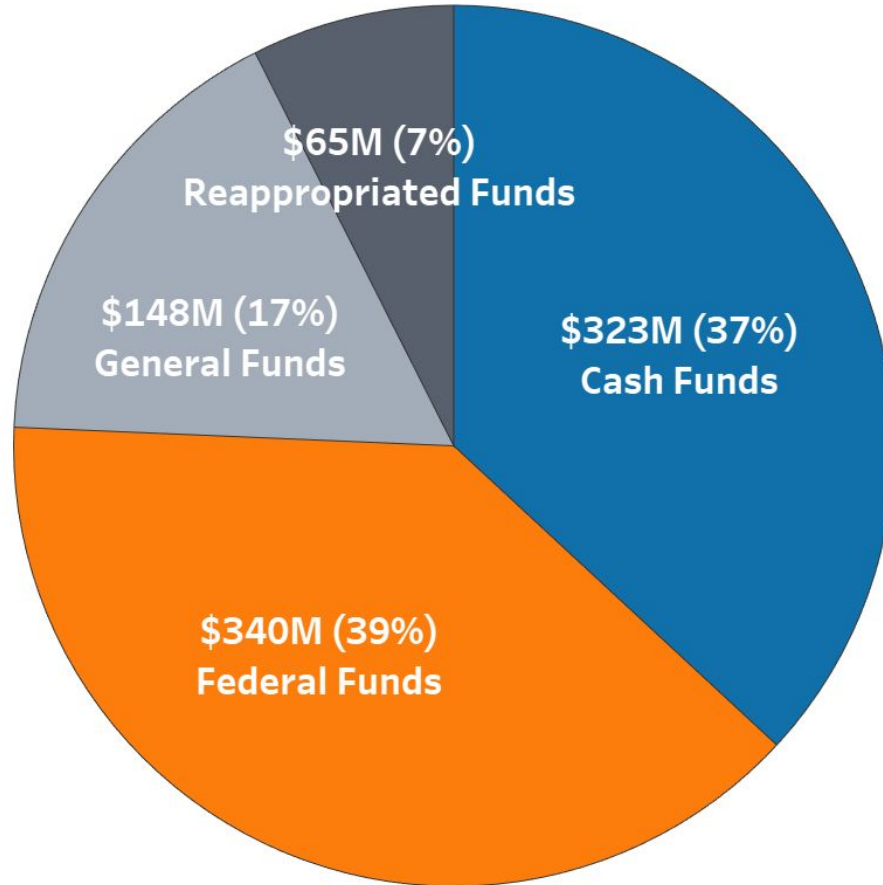
# Budget Requests

*Investing in public and environmental health  
and maximizing our resources*

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# FY25 Budget (Nov. 1): \$875 M



\*GF Exempt is immaterial

# Key Environmental Budget Requests for FY25



Environmental  
Justice



Clean air for all



# Environmental Justice



**Reducing the disproportionate impacts of environmental and public health crises on vulnerable communities by requesting:**

3 new inspectors, 2 compliance specialists, 2 community engagement specialists, and 1 Spanish translator.

4 new staff to implement Environmental Justice Action Task Force recommendations on community engagement, data, and interagency coordination (includes 2 new staff for EJ Grant Program).

Additional funding (\$100,000) for Community Connector Program.

# Clean Air for All



Continue to build on our FY 22/23 budget request to modernize and allow the state to continue making progress toward federal and state requirements and goals associated with ozone pollution, monitoring air toxics and ozone precursors, climate change, and modernizing outdated technologies.

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# Advancing Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility

*We are here to serve all Coloradans.*

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**COLORADO**  
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# To serve all Coloradans, we must advance Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA).

In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order 2020-175:

## 2023 Accomplishments:

- We deployed our 2023-2026 Departmental Strategic Plan inclusive of IDEA.
- IDEA is embedded into our Human Resources branding, talent acquisition, and leadership development strategies.
- We are improving our IDEA analytics capacity in coordination with the DPA Equity Office.
- We are on track with our departmental plan to ensure compliance with HB21-1110 and developing sustainable practices to support accessibility needs at the department.



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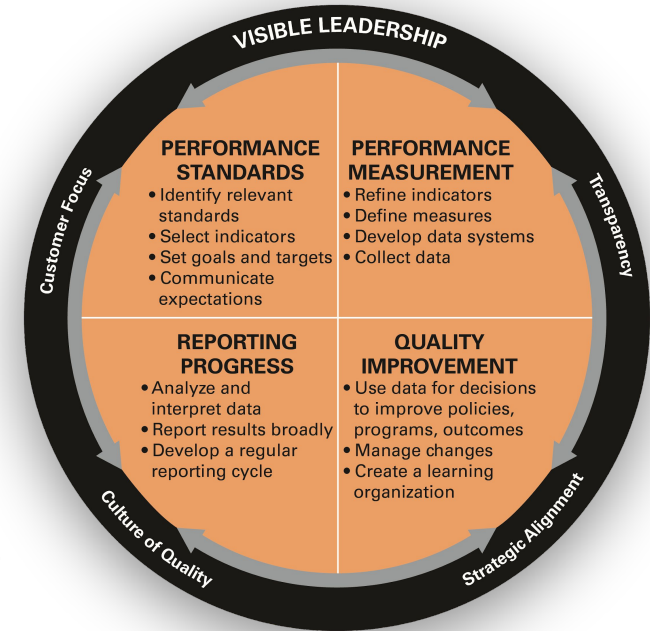
# Performance Management and Business Intelligence

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# We are maximizing our resources by being accountable and efficient.

- Comprehensive performance management system that monitors strategic priority implementation and Wildly Important Goal progress.
- Each division/office has a work plan that aligns to the department's overall strategic plan and priorities.
- We have implemented quarterly Business Intelligence & Innovation forums with leadership to review dashboards and discuss opportunities for improvement.
- We have established internal consultancy services to provide continuous quality improvement support to programs and provide training and development programs.
- We regularly use data tools and the scientific literature to enhance our practice.



**Public Health Performance Management System Framework**

Source: Public Health Foundation, Turning Point Performance Management National Excellence Collaborative

# Our 2023-2026 Strategic Plan Priorities

1. **Improving Health Outcomes:** We are intentional about improving outcomes in public health and environmental protection for all Coloradans in all department areas.
2. **Obtaining and Retaining Talent:** We will realize a human-first, progress-forward culture where all current and future employees flourish.
3. **Meeting Bold Goals:** We will accomplish Bold and Wildly Important Goals, removing barriers, being innovative, and seeking resources where needed.
4. **Achieving Operational Excellence:** We will pursue operational excellence to **modernize, right size, stabilize** and implement continuous quality improvement activities.
5. **Strengthen Colorado's System:** We will lead to strengthen Colorado's governmental public health system and promote effective public health practice (*in partnership with Colorado's 54 local public health agencies and institutes of higher education*).



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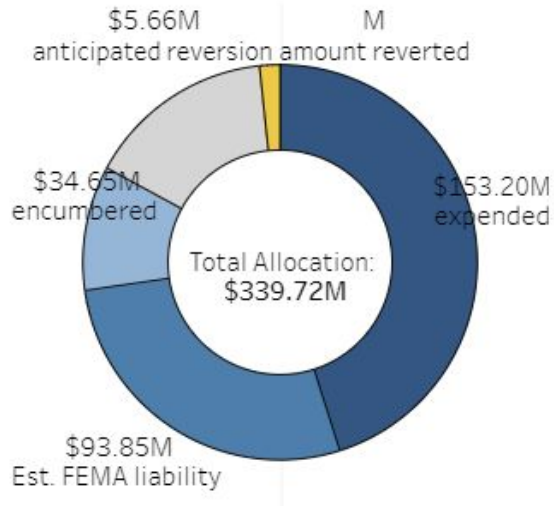
# Stimulus Implementation Update

*We are maximizing federal dollars from the stimulus.*

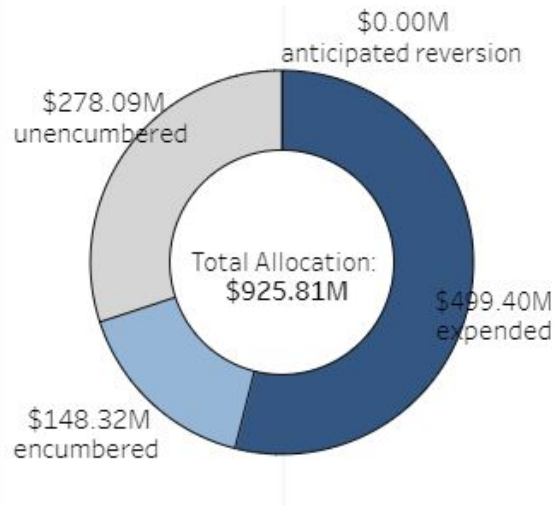
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# We are strategically investing federal stimulus funding.

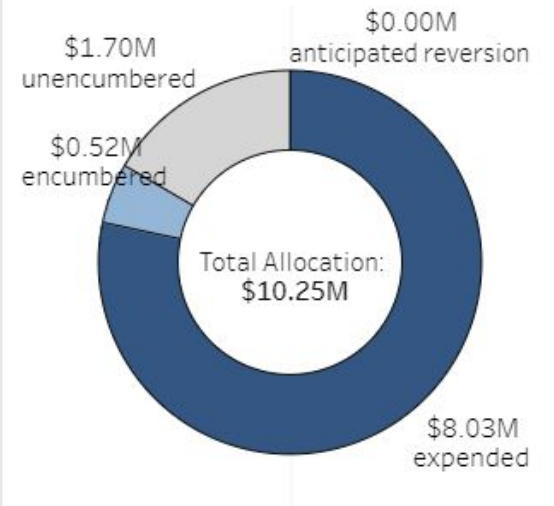
## ARPA State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF)



## Direct to Agency Awards (DAA)

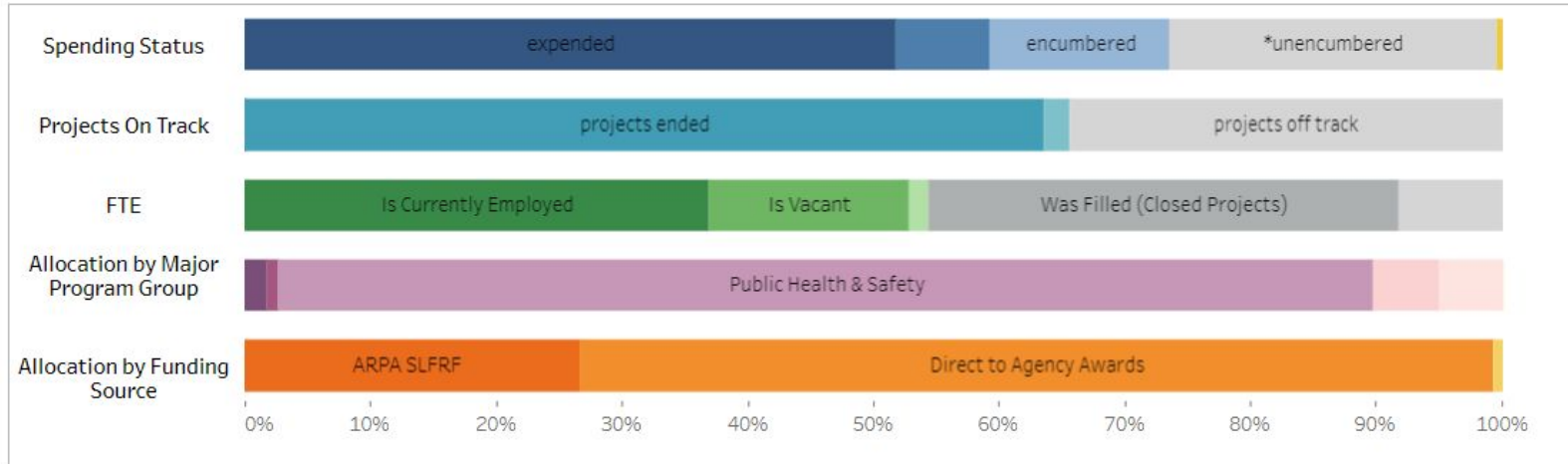


## State Stimulus



For ongoing updates to Stimulus programs, please visit [coforward.colorado.gov](https://coforward.colorado.gov)

# Federal Stimulus Funding, cont.



\*NOTE: Within the Spending Status bar, \$93.85M represented by the darker box between expended and encumbered is FEMA Reimbursement Eligible. Because these dollars are otherwise unencumbered pending reimbursement by FEMA, this chart accurately reflects the encumbrance of these dollars until reimbursement is complete. FEMA reimbursement could take several years.

Of \$1,276.78M in stimulus funding allocated over the past 4 years, CDPHE is in the process of spending \$61.66M on top of \$515.48M already spent/encumbered including:

- The Naloxone Bulk Purchase Fund (HB22-1326), which is a continuation of two previous rounds of the program, but with a much bigger allocation (\$19.7M) and a focus on preventing opioid overdose deaths and distributing as many units of naloxone as possible across the state.
- A continuation of several existing stimulus programs, including the School-based Health Centers (SB22-147); the Tax Credit Outreach Program (SB22-182), and the Colorado Health Service Corps (SB22-181).
- Critical public health infrastructure investments in the Disease Control and Public Health Response Division as well as all Local Public Health Agencies through SB21-243.

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# Regulatory Agenda

*Our appointed boards and commissions are engaging communities as they develop policies.*

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# Regulatory Agenda: Environmental Commissions

CDPHE provides a preview of all of its planned regulatory proceedings [online](#).

Notable proceedings for 2024 include:

- **AQCC:** The Commission will consider establishing fees on reported greenhouse gas emissions pursuant with HB21-1266.
- **AQCC:** The Commission will consider regulation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from midstream fuel combustion equipment statewide.
- **AQCC:** The Commission will consider a request for rulemakings to address air toxic contaminants, including identifying up to five priority contaminants in response to HB22-1244.
- **WQCC:** The Commission will consider establishing permitting fees for drinking water and the commerce and industry sector.

Please see the Appendices section of the deck for more information on CDPHE's Decision Items, plus required statutory reports.

Thank you,  
we are grateful for your continued  
partnership!



**COLORADO**  
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# QUESTIONS?

Taylor Ward, Legislative Liaison, CDPHE

[taylor.ward@state.co.us](mailto:taylor.ward@state.co.us)

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# APPENDICES

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# APPENDIX: BUDGET

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# CDPHE FY 2024-25 Decision Item Requests

## R-01 Public Health Infrastructure Continuation - \$15M General Fund

- Funding to continue 83 FTE and \$7.5M in local public health agency distributions from SB21-243. The continuation of these resources will help the state effectively prevent, monitor, and respond to emerging disease outbreaks and other public health emergencies, as well as address statewide gaps in local public health funding.

## R-02 Stationary Sources Control Fund Stabilization - \$15M Cash Fund

- Due to recent legislation and FY23 R-01 that proposed offloading upfront General Fund expenses to fee revenue, the Stationary Sources Control Fund faces a \$28M funding gap. The decision item proposes several budget actions to ensure the fund's long-term sustainability:
  - \$15M Energy and Carbon Management Commission fund transfer in FY25 and \$7.5M transfers in FY 26 and 27.
  - 48% fee increase.
  - Increase spending authority by \$5.9M.

# CDPHE FY 2024-25 Decision Item Requests

## **R-03 Sustainable Funding for Health Facility Licensure - \$2.2M General Fund and \$402k Cash Fund**

- Addresses long term sustainability and programmatic challenges of the health facilities programs by (1) increasing cash fund spending authority to reflect a CPI fee increase, (2) providing \$2M General Fund to bridge the gap between expenses and revenue, (3) adding 2 FTE to address the survey backlog, and (4) combining long bill lines to manage programmatic needs more efficiently.

## **R-04 State Syphilis Response - \$2M General Fund**

- Funding to launch a state syphilis response program that increases access to testing and screening, develops a therapy program, and increases access to treatment and prevention medications through an access delivery program.

## **R-05 State Laboratory Operating Expenses - \$1.3M General Fund and \$1.4M Cash Fund**

- Funding for courier services, biological and chemical waste disposal, regulatory software, and distribution of supplies.

# CDPHE FY 2024-25 Decision Item Requests

## **R-06 Tuberculosis Program Infrastructure - \$263k General Fund**

- One-time funding to support 2 nurse consultants that will provide consultation support to local public health agencies that are managing tuberculosis patients, as well as translation costs for forms and educational materials.

## **R-07 Advancing Environmental Justice in Enforcement and Compliance - \$921k General Fund**

- Increases Air Pollution Control Division, Hazardous Materials and Waste Management, and Water Quality Control divisions' enforcement and compliance capacity. The request also includes operating funding for community engagement and a Spanish Translation Specialist for the Environmental Justice Program.

## **R-08 Lead Testing Support - \$1.3M General Fund**

- The request includes funding to provide LeadCare II machines to local public health agencies and clinics for blood lead testing in communities disproportionately by pollution, lead testing outreach and education to providers and families, and FTE for CDPHE to complete in-home environmental investigations for children with elevated blood lead levels.

# CDPHE FY 2024-25 Decision Item Requests

## **R-09 Office of Health Equity and Environmental Justice - \$194k General Fund, \$1.1M Cash Fund, \$2.M Reserve Fund**

- The budget proposal consolidates environmental justice funding throughout the department, realigns ombudsperson costs with the General Fund, realigns the Community Impact Cash Fund with the Environmental Justice Grants program, funds environmental justice program work, and adds 3.5 FTE to address Environmental Justice Task Force recommendations.

## **R-10 Office of Health Equity Tribal Relations - \$143k General Fund**

- The request continues a Tribal data systems specialist position that a federal grant previously funded by engaging Tribal partners in data systems management, data sharing, and identifying gaps in data and potential misclassifications.

## **R-11 Technical Adjustments**

- The request consolidates and renames the Family Planning Program and transfers local public health agency funding out of the Administrative division's long bill line to the Division of Environmental Health and Sustainability.

# CDPHE FY 2024-25 Decision Item Requests

## R-12 Provider Rate Increase - \$305k General Fund and \$39k Cash Fund

- Funding as part of a 2% statewide provider rate increase. The Office of Public Health Practice, Planning, and Local Partnerships distributes General Fund and Marijuana Tax Cash Funds to local public health agencies to develop core public health service infrastructure. The increase seeks to address inflationary pressures that make it more difficult to recruit and retain healthcare staff.

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# APPENDIX: REQUIRED PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS

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**Office of Suicide Prevention Requirements:  
Suicide Prevention Commission  
Recommendations (§25-1.5-111(4) C.R.S.)  
Colorado Suicide Prevention Plan  
(§25-1.5-112(5) C.R.S.)**

# 2024 Highlights: Suicide Prevention Commission Recommendations

- **Supporting responsive health care.**
  - Examples: Zero Suicide model and the Colorado Follow-Up Project.
- **Improving training and education for professionals and community members.**
  - Examples: Question, Persuade, Refer; Mental Health First Aid; Changing our Mental and Emotional Trajectory.
- **Building resilience and community connectedness.**
  - Examples: Economic stability. Economic stability. Inclusive and safe communities for LGBTQ+ Coloradans and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. Increased support for rural communities.
- **Enhancing data collection and systems.**
  - Example: Support coroners with incentives and standardized tools.

# 2024 Highlights: Suicide Prevention Plan

The Colorado plan guides the state's approach to:

- Collaborations across agencies and sectors.
- Increasing comprehensive suicide prevention work for priority populations and occupations.
- Enhancing connectedness across communities.
- Economic stability and supports.
- Public suicide prevention education and awareness.
- Improving health system and provider response to suicide.
- Increasing active analysis and dissemination of suicide-related data.
- Sustain and expand lethal means safety initiatives.
- Postvention, which refers to supports provided to individuals after they are impacted by suicide.

## Identifying Cannabis-attributed Health Outcomes in Emergency and Hospital Data Annual Report

§25-3-217 C.R.S. | Regulating Marijuana Concentrates

[Reports and Summaries](#)

# 2024 Report Highlights: Cannabis-attributed Health Outcomes in Emergency & Hospital Data

## Limitations of the data

- Cannabis code ≠ cannabis caused.
- No existing definitions or methodology.
- No information on cannabis use or product used.

## Findings from 2022 data

- Emergency and hospital discharges likely-attributable to cannabis remains low.
  - Higher in emergency departments compared to hospitals.
  - 137 children younger than 6 discharged from the emergency department.
- Hospital discharges had higher percentage of cannabis combined with other substances.

## Key Takeaways

- Data are not suited to identify diagnoses and conditions that reflect cannabis use.
- Not confident the data findings reflect reality.

## Recommendations

- Prioritize adult education on safe cannabis storage to prevent emergency department visits in young kids.
- Collaborate with national partners to develop formal definitions.
- Work with stakeholders to develop research questions and feasible strategies to answer those questions.
- More research on cannabis discharge codes.

## Postmortem Toxicology Results Among Colorado Residents Under Age 25

§30-10-624 C.R.S. | Regulating Marijuana Concentrates

[Reports and Summaries](#)

# 2022 Report Highlights: Postmortem Toxicology Results

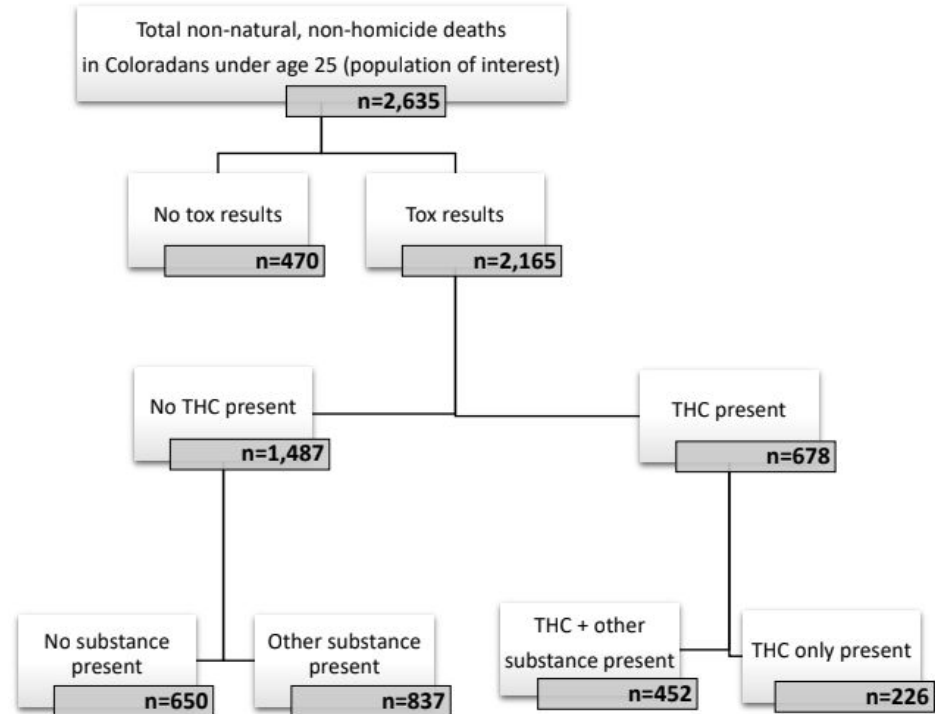
## Findings from 2010-2021

### Limitations

- Toxicology testing and details varied over time.
- Information on marijuana product, how and when consumed is rare.
- Unable to determine level of THC impairment after death.

### Key Takeaways among Population of Interest

- 8.6% had THC-only toxicology result (n=226).
  - Rate of 1.6 deaths per 100,000.
- Suicide leading cause of death (n=1,972).
  - 10.4% (n=206) THC-only toxicology results.



# Public Health Required Report

## Hospital Staffing Standards

25-3-128, C.R.S. | Hospital Nurse Staffing Standards

[Report Link](#)

- Promulgated emergency rule in August to meet statutory effective date of September 1, 2022 implementation.
- Established baseline hospital bed counts and continued reporting structure to the department regarding hospital surge capacities.
- Established requirements for staffing feedback and complaint system within hospitals.
- Extended emergency rule to continue to work with the Colorado Hospital Association and interested stakeholders in the development of permanent rule adopted by the Board of Health in April 2023.



# 2023 Report Highlights: Hospital Staffing Standards

## Initial Staffing Plan Submissions

- As of September 1, 2023, the department received all initial nurse staffing plans.
- The department issued citations for staffing plans that were not submitted in a timely manner or did not contain the criteria outlined in statute and department rules.
- The department provided hospitals with an opportunity to correct their plans.

## Annual Reports

- Submission of annual reports with quarterly evaluations are due upon renewal of each hospital's license renewal application.
- 39 annual staffing reports were submitted as of January 1, 2024. To date, all required annual reports have been submitted in accordance with the license renewal date.

## Key Takeaways from the reports received

- Hospitals demonstrate establishment of a staff complaint and feedback system.
- Hospitals demonstrate evaluation of their staffing plans based on the criteria set forth in statute.
- Hospitals demonstrate communication and collaboration with the hospital's designated staffing committee, who review and recommend the plan to the hospital's governing body for approval.
- Some hospitals demonstrated exploration of new ideas for staffing such as the use of acuity tools and broader use of Licensed Practical Nurses.

## Added Conditions - Infant Newborn Screening

§25-4-1004 (1.5) C.R.S. | Infant Newborn Screening

# 2023 Report Highlights: Infant Newborn Screening

## Key Takeaways

- The Colorado Newborn Screening Program moved into the new laboratory and office space in the state lab building in spring 2023.
- The program began testing for X-linked adrenoleukodystrophy in February 2023.
- The national Recommended Uniform Screening Panel review committee has added new conditions.
- The program has a January 2024 request for rulemaking with the Board of Health to align with the panel and add targeted viral testing.
- The program implemented a new laboratory information management system in October 2023.

## Recommendations

- The program will need to review and address staffing, equipment and funding on a regular basis to maintain Colorado's alignment with national standards.

## Limitations

- Spending authority has not increased to meet the demands of the program.
- Cost increases related to testing and staffing are close to exceeding spending authority.
- Equipment purchases detailed in HB18-1006 have not occurred due to budget constraints.
- The program has outstanding invoices due to fiscal staffing changes during the COVID response.
- The program has excess cash due to spending authority constraints.

## Findings from 2023 data

- Over 650 samples sent out for second tier X-linked adrenoleukodystrophy testing due to lack of equipment.
- The program has tested over 63,000 first specimens and over 58,000 second specimens through November 2023.

## Office of Gun Violence and Prevention

§25-20.5-120 | Office of Gun Violence Prevention

[Report Link](#)

# 2023 Report Highlights: Office of Gun Violence Prevention

## Limitations

- The scope of the office's work is to provide expert guidance to other agencies to make data-informed strategic decisions and coordinate extreme risk protection order education and awareness strategies.

## Key Takeaways

- Distributed approximately \$550,000 in grant support to community-based gun violence prevention initiatives throughout Colorado.
- Launched the first statewide education campaign to raise awareness of gun violence prevention resources. Topics include gun safety and ways to support someone in crisis. Media buys included print, commercials, earned and social media.
  - We invite you to share this campaign with your networks using the [Communications Toolkit for Legislators](#).
- Created an online resource bank about Colorado laws, firearm harms, gun violence prevention approaches, including secure storage, out-of-home storage, and extreme risk protection orders, and a curated data dashboard that allows visitors to explore firearm-related data in Colorado.
- Worked with the Attorney General's Office, the Office of School Safety, and the Department of Public Safety in the governor's Crime Prevention Working Group focused on making Colorado one of the top 10 safest states.
- Collaborated with the Trailhead Institute to host the Public Health Roundtable on Firearm-Related Violence Prevention in June 2023. Over the course of two days, over 100 experts from across the state gathered to take an important step toward building an effective community-based approach to firearm violence prevention in Colorado.

## Colorado Health Service Corps

§25-1.5-505 C.R.S. | Primary Care Office

[Report Link](#)

# 2023 Report Highlights: Colorado Health Service Corps

Colorado Health Service Corps creates an incentive for clinicians to practice in Health Professional Shortage Areas by reducing education loan debt in exchange for clinical service to low-income, publicly insured, uninsured, and geographically isolated Coloradans. In the last report:

- The Primary Care Office awarded over \$14M in loan repayment in FY 22-23.
- 434 total health professionals participate in the program.
- 557 eligible health service corps clinical sites participate across Colorado.
- Over 1,300 years were obligated across all contracts to provide primary, oral, and behavioral health care services in Colorado.

## Task Force to Reduce Youth Violence, Suicide, and Delinquency Risk Factors

§25-1-137 C.R.S. | Prevention Services Division

[Bill Link](#)



# 2024 Highlights:

## Task Force Reduce Youth Violence, Suicide, Delinquency Risk Factors

The task force is charged with establishing shared goals, objectives, and guidelines for governmental agencies and community-based agencies to achieve maximum impact in reducing youth violence, suicide, and delinquency risk factors for target communities with the highest rates of youth violence, suicide, or delinquency risk factors.

- The task force held its first meeting in December 2023.
- There are many opportunities to align programmatic work.
- Programs identify communities in different ways depending on available datasets.
- The committee will spend the first quarter of 2024 setting up the full task force and gathering information. The second quarter will define the priority communities and data sources. The third quarter will identify structural needs and finalize any data sharing agreements.

## Kidney Disease Prevention and Education Task Force

§25-1-136 C.R.S. | Prevention Services Division

[Report Link](#)

# 2023 Report Highlights: Kidney Disease and Prevention Task Force

The Kidney Disease and Prevention Task Force was created in HB21-1171.

- The task force is charged to work with various entities to create kidney disease educational programs and increase overall awareness of kidney disease in Colorado to:
  - Examine chronic kidney disease, transplantation, donation, and the higher rates of affliction in minority populations.
  - Develop a plan to raise awareness about kidney disease in Colorado.
- The task first submitted its initial report to CDPHE on December 1, 2023.
- The task force is shifting its focus to building a sustainable plan to raise awareness about kidney disease in Colorado.

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# APPENDIX: REQUIRED ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

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## Paint Stewardship Program

25-17-401 C.R.S. | Paint Stewardship Program

[Paint stewardship and recycling](#)

# 2022 Report Highlights: Paint Stewardship Program

## Findings from 2022 data:

- Paint collection increased by 13,000 gallons, while paint sales decreased by 590,000 gallons.
- Paint collection offered at:
  - 196 permanent drop off sites.
  - 58 community collection events.
  - 200 direct large volume pickups.

## Limitations:

- PaintCare measures paint recovery by comparing the gallons of unused paint collected with the gallons of paint sold each year.
- In 2022, the recovery rate was 5.8%, as most of the paint sold is used as a product.

## Key Takeaways:

- 96.3% of Coloradans live within a 15 mile radius of a permanent paint drop-off location, exceeding the 90% requirement in the law.
- PaintCare collected 806,605 gallons of unused paint in 2022.

## Recommendations:

- PaintCare should provide collection events in communities that are beyond a 15-mile radius of permanent sites, prioritizing (1) communities disproportionately impacted by pollution, which the program can identify using the Colorado EnviroScreen mapping tool, and (2) communities that did not have paint collection events in 2022.

## Circular Economy Development Center Annual Progress Report July 1-July 31, 2023

§25-17-601 and 602 C.R.S.

[Report Link](#)

# 2023 Report Highlights: Circular Economy Development Center

The center commenced operations on July 1, 2023.

## Purpose

- Empower Colorado businesses to manufacture new products using materials that Coloradans recycle.
- Create end markets to divert material currently filling Colorado landfills.

## Key activities

- Assess the Colorado material landscape and create a baseline to move forward in creating markets.
- Expand existing material markets by closing the loop locally.
- Create markets for materials that do not currently have a market in Colorado and are going to landfill.

## Completed Activities, July 1 - July 31, 2023

- Year One Stakeholder Strategic Plan.
- Branding and marketing plan.
- Launch the center's [website](#).
- Stand up the first office in Golden.

## Activities for the remainder of FY24

- Engage stakeholders across the state.
- Assess shingle-to-shingle end market.
- Support business planning to use recycled plastics in their manufacturing plant.
- Support the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's Colorado Textile Circulator demonstration project.
- Develop the end-market gap analysis due August 2024.
- Establish satellite offices.





## Water Quality Control Fee Setting

C.R.S. 25-8-305(2)(g)

[Report Link](#)

# 2024 Highlights: Water Quality Control Fee Setting

- To date, the Water Quality Control Division has not raised fees, nor has the division allocated any increased fees established through section 25-8-210 for services that the division provides. However, the division has proposed a fee increase as part of an upcoming Water Quality Control Commission rulemaking that will take place in May 2024. The proposal is a 13% fee increase for two service areas, drinking water fees and fees from the commerce and industry sector.
- The division's Drinking Water Program implements the federal Safe Drinking Water Act for around 2,000 public water systems in Colorado.
- The division's Clean Water Program is summarized in two long bill sections (Clean Water Sectors and Clean Water Program). The Clean Water Program implements the Clean Water Act and Colorado's Water Quality Control Act and oversees the regulation of 10,000 permittees in Colorado.