

Key Advocacy Issues & Policy Priorities

Issue: Refugee Resettlement & Integration

Policy Priority: Restoring U.S. refugee admissions and supporting resettlement and integration in Colorado

Colorado's policymakers should:

- 1) Support the restoration of the resettlement program to at least 75,000 per year in response to the global refugee crisis and with no limitations based on country of origin or religion.
- 2) Support an increase in state and federal resources for resettlement programs, allowing more flexible approaches to individual refugees based on needs.
- 3) Support enhancement of integration and navigation services beyond the initial resettlement period.
- 4) Support the restoration of refugee access to Medicaid, Medicare, SNAP, and other public benefits and services eroded by H.R. 1 (2025) and other federal actions.

Issue: Early Childhood Education & Care

Policy Priority: Improving access to quality early childhood education and care for Colorado's dual language learner (DLL) families

Colorado's policymakers should:

- 1) Consider and respond to the particular needs of DLL families within existing early childhood initiatives across the state.
- 2) Improve and expand funding for alternative forms of early childhood services, such as home visiting, friends, family, and neighbor (FFN) care, and infant care.
- 3) Explore ways to increase diversity among the early childhood workforce, including linguistic and cultural competency of professionals.
- 4) Improve data collection across the state to cover all types of early childhood programs and distinct populations, including DLL children.

Issue: Adult Education, Training, & Accreditation

Policy Priority: Increasing Colorado state funding for adult education and family literacy

Colorado's policymakers should:

Support an increase in funding for adult education in the annual budget for the State of Colorado and designation of funding for the purposes of increasing family literacy and promoting the community integration of English language learners.

Policy Priority: Improving accreditation/licensing processes for Colorado's International Medical Graduates and other internationally trained and linguistically diverse healthcare professionals

Colorado's policymakers should:

Support processes for easier accreditation/licensing for International Medical Graduates (IMGs) and Internationally Trained Behavioral Healthcare Professionals (ITBHPs), including by:

- 1) Pushing for state and federal funding of programs that assist them in gaining licensure or credentials to practice in Colorado.
- 2) Creating alternative pathways or removing barriers to credentialing in the State of Colorado.

Issue: Language Access

Policy Priority: Improving language access in community life and civic engagement

Colorado's policymakers should:

- 1) Support state policies and initiatives that increase language access, such as the adoption and implementation of a statewide language access policy.
- 2) Respond to erosion of federal language access protections as they impact Coloradans.