



# Kaiser Permanente Colorado 2022 Community Health Snapshot

The many ways we support community health.

# Our values and commitment

We are recognized as one of America's leading health care providers and nonprofit health plans. As the state's largest nonprofit health care organization, we work to improve the conditions of health and equity in the communities we serve.

We have prioritized social health at the same level as mental and physical health, knowing that one cannot attain their full health potential without addressing unmet social needs.

In 2022, we proudly invested \$89 million for community health support, partnerships, programs, and charitable care and coverage to improve the health of all Coloradans. In addition, \$8.5 million was invested from our donor advised fund with The Denver Foundation. This Community Health Snapshot highlights some of that work.

We're proud of the work we were able to accomplish in 2022 with our teams, community leaders, and organizations, and we'll continue to focus on improving health equity through our dedication to access, opportunity, fair and just treatment, and the health and well-being of all Coloradans.



**Mike Ramseier**  
Regional President



**Jeff Krawcek, MD**  
President and Executive  
Medical Director



**Amy Whited**  
Vice President of Community  
Health, Marketing, and  
Communications

# Access to Care

We believe that everyone has a right to good health. Ensuring access to care means serving those most in need through Medicaid, medical financial assistance, and other forms of subsidized care and coverage.

## Charity care

Our Medical Financial Assistance Program approved more than 8,000 requests and covered over 76,000 prescriptions. We invested nearly \$21 million in Medical Financial Assistance and \$57 million on Medicaid and Child Health Plan Plus.



## Safety net support

We're committed to building partnerships with the institutions that serve on the front lines of health care for the uninsured and underserved, often referred to as the health care "safety net." This included nearly \$2 million\* in grants aimed at:

- Improving access to care via care team optimization and innovation in care delivery models
- Enhancing financial stability of safety-net clinics through the expansion of Medicaid and insurance billing capabilities
- Coaching and implementing plans to improve clinical workflows, hire and recruit clinical staff and providers, and maximize the current workforce



# Social Health



Social health is being able to take care of basic, daily needs: Having a safe place to live, nutritious food, and positive relationships. Improving personal financial security and reducing inequities are also essential to living well. Some components of social health we focus on include housing, access to healthy foods, the CityHealth initiative, and economic opportunities.



## Housing for Health

When people have access to affordable, stable housing, they are more likely to seek necessary medical care and stay current on medications, which positively influences their health and

well-being. That's why we support efforts to end homelessness and preserve and increase affordable housing by making investments that have long-term impact and mobilizing innovative partnerships.

We contributed nearly \$500,000\* to **The Dearfield Fund for Black Wealth**, which directly addresses the racial wealth gap and home ownership challenges faced by Black families.

We provided a \$1 million grant to support the **Denver Housing to Health** initiative, which aims to demonstrate that housing and intensive case management can improve lives and reduce the costs of those in need. Our funding provided housing and other services for participants.

We awarded over \$500,000 in grants to organizations, including [Colorado Coalition for the Homeless](#), that provide a safe space to recover from illness. A medical respite site gives patients the opportunity to heal and obtain wraparound services that lead to permanent housing.

## Food for Life

More than 38 million Americans lack regular access to enough food for an active and healthy life. We help the communities we serve access nutritious food by enrolling members in food assistance programs, developing interventions, and building community partnerships. Our approach serves as a model to inform our recommendations for policies that can improve access to nutritious food.



We provided a \$580,000 grant to **Project Angel Heart** to support the expansion of their medically tailored meals [program in southern Colorado](#). The expansion of services resulted in Project Angel Heart preparing and delivering 681,309 meals to 4,759 Coloradans living with severe illness, a 16% increase in meals provided over the previous year.



We supported Food Bank of the Rockies with a \$480,000\* grant to scale its **Culturally Responsive Food Initiative** through an inclusive capacity building training program. A new cohort of 20 hunger relief partners that reach diverse, immigrant, and refugee communities in Colorado will be trained and resourced to respond more effectively to barriers faced by these communities.

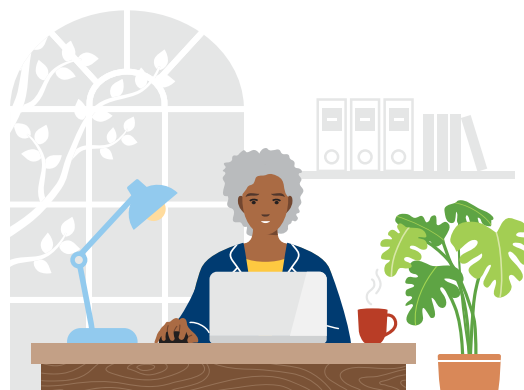


## Economic opportunity

Communities of color are disproportionately affected by a lack of economic opportunity. This financial strain creates multiple barriers to good health. We work to improve personal financial security and reduce economic inequities through community partnerships, business operations, and member interventions.

We invested over \$600,000 and partnered with local organizations to support entrepreneurs of color by strengthening their formal training and business networks, in addition to increasing access to capital for recovery and growth.

An additional cohort of grantees was awarded a total of \$400,000\* to support individuals facing barriers to employment through job training and placement in quality jobs.



# Community Resilience

Community resilience is about supporting communities with resources to prepare for, withstand, and recover from adverse events and situations. Recent examples include wildfires and the COVID-19 pandemic. But it also includes working with schools and districts to help staff better understand and integrate social and emotional well-being into all aspects of school life – for students and themselves.



## Thriving Schools

As a valuable partner in health for school districts across Colorado, we're committed to ensuring that teachers, staff, and students have the support they need to thrive – in learning and in health.

- The [Thriving Schools Integrated Assessment](#) was developed to promote wellness and educational goals by incorporating health-related strategies for students and staff. We supported 15 Colorado school districts and charter school networks to activate this assessment.
- We supported the **Public Education and Business Coalition** with a \$1.5 million\* grant to address the shortage of educators in Colorado. This 2-year partnership will prioritize racial equity in educator recruitment and increase social-emotional learning and trauma-informed practices for educators.

- RISE, the **Resilience in School Environments** initiative, prepares school staff to better understand and integrate social and emotional well-being into all aspects of school life, both theirs and their students. We supported multiple districts over the past 5 years, including another contribution to **Boulder Valley School District** in 2022 to expand programming that supported teachers, staff, and parents' mental health needs in response to the [Colorado Marshall Fire](#).



## CityHealth

Local policies addressing the key social determinants of health can greatly impact people's lives. [CityHealth](#), an initiative of the de Beaumont Foundation and Kaiser Permanente, recently awarded Denver an overall gold medal for its adoption of policies to improve residents' access to healthy choices and address critical health disparities. Denver was one of only 2 cities to receive this gold medal recognition.



\* Contribution made using our donor advised fund through The Denver Foundation.

# Community Engagement

We work with local organizations to amplify programs that address unmet social needs and improve the health of Colorado's communities.

## Employee involvement

We support staff engagement in community health through employee gift matching and community service opportunities.

In 2022, nearly 600 employees participated in the giving campaign to support 325 local organizations with more than \$500,000 in donations.

## Community Health Needs Assessment

Every 3 years, we conduct a [Community Health Needs Assessment](#) to guide and inform our community-focused investments and business decisions. The CHNA is driven by a commitment to improve health equity and the unique needs of our service area.

Our 2022 CHNA identified and prioritized the following health needs based on community-level data and input from those who represent the broad interests of the community:

- Access to care
- Housing
- Food insecurity
- Income and employment
- Dismantling structural racism
- Climate and environment

## Sponsorships

We supported **Special Olympics Colorado** to send more than 100 athletes and coaches representing 11 teams to the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games. In addition, we volunteered at their training camp at the Air Force Academy, sponsored their send-off celebration, and welcomed athletes home with invitations to watch a Colorado Rapids Game.

Read more about our work at [about.kp.org](https://about.kp.org).

