

2016 Foundation Profile

Since 1987, The Women's Foundation of Colorado has been, and continues to be, the only community foundation in our state dedicated to the economic self-sufficiency of women, girls, and their families. We harness collective passions and resources to leverage tools for systemic change, including research, advocacy, grantmaking, and leadership development.

Why is change needed in Colorado?

- If Colorado women earned the same as comparable men, the poverty rate for all working women would be cut in half and the state economy would **grow by an additional \$9.2 billion**.
- **More than one-third** of Colorado households headed by single mothers with children under 18 live in poverty.
- Colorado ranks as one of the **least affordable states** for full-time, center-based child care for preschoolers and for infants. Single mothers can spend up to almost half their incomes on child care.
- Careers in STEM offer higher salaries and earning potential during a woman's lifetime, however **Colorado high school girls are less prepared** than boys for college-level math and science – coursework needed to enter STEM careers and higher education programs for these careers.
- Women without a high school diploma earn, on average, **\$7,000 per year less** than their male counterparts without high school diplomas.

Our Impact Areas:

1. **Help girls graduate from high school:** Our Girls Graduate Initiative is based on extensive research and experience collaborating with organizations to keep girls at risk of dropping out on the path to high school graduation. By partnering with organizations that work closely with schools to offer evidence-based school engagement interventions, academic support, and family engagement resources, we help girls overcome obstacles and stay on track. These investments improve girls' futures and strengthen Colorado communities.
2. **Enhancing STEM Careers Opportunities for Girls:** Women working in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields earn 33% more than in other fields and Colorado has the highest number per capita of entry-level STEM jobs, yet women represent only 24% of the STEM workforce. Too many **women are discouraged at a young age** from pursuing their scientific interests and lack female role models and mentors who could help them achieve success in STEM careers.
3. **Helping Single Moms Succeed:** We work to ensure working women receive the necessary support on their path to achieving their full potential. Single mothers often fare the worst when it comes to economic security. We partner with organizations that provide direct service programs including job training or education, career counseling/planning, and child care.
4. **Girls' Leadership Council:** Every summer, WFCO brings 20 rising juniors from across Colorado together for a dynamic one-week program to empower them to create positive changes in their communities through leadership, advocacy, and philanthropy.

Since 1987, The Women's Foundation of Colorado has invested more than \$14.2 million in agencies in communities across Colorado to create change for women and girls.

THE WOMEN'S FOUNDATION OF COLORADO

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