



2021 Community Health Snapshot

The ways we support community health in Colorado.



Our values and commitment

As the state's largest nonprofit health care organization, Kaiser Permanente works to improve health and equity in the communities we serve. We believe in inclusion for all.

We're committed to evolving how we lead with the objective of achieving equitable health outcomes for our workforce, members, communities, and society.

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

Over the past 2 years, we've responded to a global pandemic, accelerated our efforts to support the social health of our communities, and confronted the health and wealth gaps created by systemic racism and deeply entrenched inequities in our society.

In 2021, we proudly invested more than \$100 million in community health support, partnerships, programs, and charitable care and coverage to improve the health of all Coloradans. This Community Health Snapshot highlights some of that work and focuses on our efforts in 2021.

We're proud of the work we were able to accomplish in 2021, together with our teams, many community leaders, and organizations, even as we acknowledge the challenges ahead of us. We'll continue to focus on furthering health equity throughout our communities. We'll remain dedicated in our efforts for results in fair and just treatment, access, opportunity, 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



COVID-19 response | INVESTED MORE THAN \$2.9M

As vaccines brought hope to end the pandemic, we continued to support our members and the community with fair and equitable vaccine distribution.

- We provided grants to educate and increase access to COVID-19 vaccines in communities disproportionately affected.
- We responded to the greater vulnerability to COVID-19 among people experiencing homelessness with grants for increased testing, symptom monitoring, vaccinations, and resources.
- We hosted mass community vaccination events for seniors, educators, and under-resourced individuals.
- We provided travel support for seniors to get their COVID-19 vaccinations.
- **We collaborated on the Together We Protect initiative** — Colorado's COVID-19 Vaccine Equity Fund — a collaboration of Immunize Colorado, Colorado Vaccine Equity Taskforce, and 12 Colorado organizations, working together to advance vaccine equity.

Medicaid and charity care | INVESTED \$84M

Striving to improve health access also means serving people most in need of health care through Medicaid, medical financial assistance, charitable health coverage, and other forms of subsidized care and coverage.



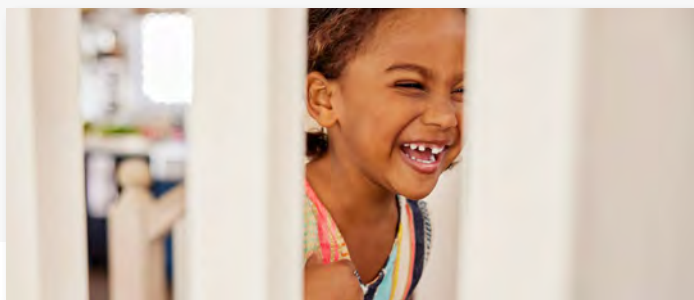
Social health | INVESTED MORE THAN \$5.9M

Social health is being able to take care of basic 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 examples of our focus on social health include housing, access to healthy foods, and economic opportunities.

In partnership with Unite Us, we provided an online searchable social health referral network for community-based organizations called [Unite Colorado \(https://colorado.uniteus.com/\)](https://colorado.uniteus.com/) as well as a searchable social services [resource directory \(kp.org/socialhealth\)](http://kp.org/socialhealth) for our patients. These resources are available to help people secure safe housing, healthy food, and other essentials.



Housing for Health



Unaffordable, unstable housing environments often result in people foregoing necessary medical care, skipping medication, or being negatively impacted by their environment in ways that worsen their health. We support efforts to end homelessness and preserve and increase affordable housing by making investments that have long-term impact and catalyze innovative partnerships.

We established a fund in collaboration with the City of Colorado Springs and Community Health Partnership designed to **support housing and homeless services** that are not covered by CARES Act funds, such as immunization incentives.

We supported the Colorado Division of Housing to contract with community-based organizations to provide **permanent supportive housing and wraparound services for unhoused people** with complex needs.

In partnership with Enterprise Community Partners, our RxHome Fund provided low-cost, long-term loans to **create and preserve multifamily rental homes** for low-income residents.

Food for Life



The need for food assistance grew in our communities in 2020, and a survey of our membership showed that 1 in 5 Kaiser Permanente members are experiencing food insecurity, while 1 in 7 members experienced new challenges to accessing healthy food during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We conducted an outreach campaign to our Colorado members about Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. Through timely, relevant, and engaging digital outreach, members were provided with information about the SNAP benefits and encouraged those who might be eligible to apply through a direct link provided in text and email messages.

More than 26,000 Coloradans were enrolled in SNAP.

Economic Opportunity



Communities of color are disproportionately affected by a lack of economic opportunity, experiencing sustained 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 focus on equitable outcomes, with an emphasis on supporting individuals and communities of color.

- We 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.**
- 6 organizations were awarded more than \$1.4 million in grants to provide **core, programmatic, and financial support to diverse small-businesses owners.**





CityHealth

Local policies that address the key social determinants of health can have a tremendous impact on people's lives.

- CityHealth, our collaboration with de Beaumont Foundation, advances a package of policy solutions that help people live longer and better lives in vibrant, prosperous communities. CityHealth's policy recommendations are based on evidence, supported by experts, and receive bipartisan support.
- In CityHealth's annual public health policy ratings of the largest cities in the country, **Denver was awarded an overall silver medal.**
- We supported baseline assessments to measure implementation of a program designed, in part, to ensure healthy food choices at city institutions. We also contributed to engage youth in a campaign to end the sale of flavored tobacco.



Thriving Schools | INVESTED MORE THAN \$1.3M

The COVID-19 pandemic changed the landscape of our schools: Teachers had to adapt to new distance-learning methods, new means of connecting with students who have a variety of mental, physical, and social health needs, new ways to distribute school meals to people who rely on them for daily sustenance, and new levels of stress for everyone.

- We provided funding to help 17 Colorado school districts increase food distribution equity for tens of thousands of students during the 2021-22 school year.
- We provided funding to 12 Colorado school districts to implement activities based on recommendations from the National Healthy Schools Collaborative.
- We provided Colorado Association for School-Based Healthcare with a multiyear grant to increase telehealth access in schools without school-based health centers.
- We supported National Alliance on Mental Illness to address mental health issues among young people.
- We provided Playworks with multiyear funding to support Aurora Public Schools with services and programs to increase physical activity, social emotional skills, and peer leadership among elementary students.

Equity, inclusion, and diversity | INVESTED \$530K

We're committed to equity and inclusion for all people. We acknowledge racism as a public health issue and will continue our work to address racial disparities, social justice, and inequity inside and outside our organization.

- We partnered with 3 organizations to support ongoing work to address hate crimes and inequities in the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities.
- We partnered with the Denver Scholarship Foundation to provide 26 scholarships to Colorado students of color pursuing careers in health care.



Safety net | INVESTED \$510K

Safety net clinics are essential community partners: Community-funded clinics, rural health clinics, free clinics, school-based health centers, and Federally Qualified Health Centers are vital parts of Colorado's health care safety net, providing quality care for the state's most under-resourced populations.

- We supported a cohort — ASCENT — to increase and improve access to specialty care for low-income adults.
- We provided funding to 11 community health centers to distribute COVID-19 vaccinations: Over 200,000 vaccinations were given in communities disproportionately affected by the pandemic.
- We supported safety net clinics to participate in a COVID-19 education and prevention outreach campaign.

More key priorities | INVESTED MORE THAN \$890K

We believe it is our obligation to minimize our environmental impact. We work to be environmentally responsible throughout our organization and prioritize partnerships with others to develop policies and systems that strengthen community health and protect our environment.

We contributed to relief and recovery efforts in communities affected by the wildfires in Colorado:

- We supported the American Red Cross Disaster Relief to help people affected by disasters.
- We supported the Boulder County Wildfire Fund through the Community Foundation Boulder County for relief efforts. The contributions are being made through a Kaiser Permanente, donor-advised fund at The Denver Foundation.

[Read more about our work.](#)