



# Newsletter

July 2020

## Our Response to COVID-19

As Colorado continues to navigate the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Gary Community Investments is committed to leveraging our financial resources to support Colorado's low-income children and families. Whether it's **coming together with other funders** to support small businesses, partnering with **child care** providers to provide essential workers access to child care or supporting the state with **COVID-19 testing solutions**, all of us at Gary Community Investments are doing all we can to help Colorado navigate this crisis. By collaborating with partners, funders and policymakers, we can help Colorado reopen its economy safely.

In our latest effort to help Coloradans get back to the communities we love, Gary Community Investments has **partnered with the Corporation for National and Community Service** to supply more than 800 AmeriCorps and Senior Corps members with laptops and internet access as they work with the State of Colorado to conduct COVID-19 contact tracing. But AmeriCorps and Senior Corps need more volunteers to do this important work which will help slow the spread of COVID-19 in Colorado. Check out an important message from Senator Michael Bennett (**and others**) and visit [colorado.gov/servecolorado](https://colorado.gov/servecolorado) to learn more.



# Collaboration Between Childhood Advocates and Lawmakers

## Yields Monumental Opportunity for Colorado's Children and Families

By the time the Colorado legislature adjourned for the 2020 legislative session, lawmakers had passed a number of bills aimed at improving school readiness and economic security for children and families in Colorado. Not the least of which is **HB20-1427**, a referred ballot measure in which voters in November will choose whether to increase taxes on tobacco and nicotine products to help fund universal preschool for all 4-year-olds in the state. If passed, the measure will generate an estimated \$2 billion for preschool over the next decade while also reducing the health effects from tobacco and vaping.

Guided by our values of working together and engaging community, Gary Community Investments was humbled and honored to work with an incredibly diverse group of early childhood advocates and lawmakers to support passage of this monumental piece of legislation. But, this wasn't the only victory achieved for children and families.

[Read more](#)

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## Mobilitynext: Addressing Transportation Challenges for Denver's Working Family Members

Gary Community Investments' most recent investment, Mobilitynext, is a nonprofit, member-funded organization that was founded in direct response to the Denver Regional Council of Governments' (DRCOG) Mobility Choice Blueprint Plan that was created to address metro Denver's biggest transportation challenges. This investment will build upon our WORKNOW investment, which creates career opportunities in the construction industry for low-income individuals and families being affected by regional construction projects. The initiative increases access to resources like job training, apprenticeships and career placement.

Working together, Mobilitynext and WORKNOW will identify affordable and reliable transportation solutions for WORKNOW members and create a blueprint for how these solutions will be implemented.

[Read more](#)

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## Program Updates



The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) not only puts thousands of dollars into the hands of low-wage workers, it also improves health outcomes particularly in the areas of infant and maternal health. While improved health outcomes for those who receive the EITC have long been known, as more data becomes available health-related organizations are increasingly committing time and resources to ensure families are taking advantage of this valuable cash-back tax credit. [Read](#)

[more.](#)



In anticipation of social distancing measures continuing into the fall, we have made the difficult decision to postpone Shift Research Lab's fifth annual Mile High Data Day. We are committed to strengthening the region's data culture and are looking forward to hosting this event live when circumstances permit. Follow [@Shift\\_Research](#) on twitter for news and updates.

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## We are Hiring a Campaign Manager!

The Campaign Manager supports the Get Ahead Colorado program's marketing and communications needs, including implementing strategic communications plans and tactics, developing and executing an integrated digital content strategy across multiple channels, developing original content and assets, as well as managing campaign partner engagement and outreach activities. This position also provides marketing and promotional support to the Tax Help Colorado program.

Learn more and apply

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## In the News

- [New Profit launches \\$6 million Future of Work Grand Challenge](#) - Philanthropy News Digest, June 26
- [Opinion: Child care in Colorado was ready for reinvention, COVID-19 now demands it](#) - The Colorado Sun, June 23
- [Voters will decide in November whether all Colorado 4-year-olds can attend preschool starting in 2023](#) - The Colorado Sun, June 19
- [Colorado Partners With AmeriCorps to Fight COVID](#) - Colorado Times Recorder, June 12
- [Opinion: You're reading this online, but not every Colorado family can. Public-minded TV is still here to educate children.](#) - The Colorado Sun, May 17
- [State To Provide Reading Lessons To Colorado Children](#) - CBS 4 News (KCNC Online), May 11
- [Read with Me at Home- Coming May 18th](#) - Rocky Mountain PBS, May 11
- [Statewide fund to boost Boulder County child care centers during coronavirus pandemic](#) - Daily Camera, May 10
- [Colorado eco devo commission approves program to help nonprofit lenders with PPP loans](#) - Denver Business Journal, April 28
- [Emergency free child care available for essential workers in Colorado amid pandemic](#) - Fox 31 News (KDVR Online), April 1



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