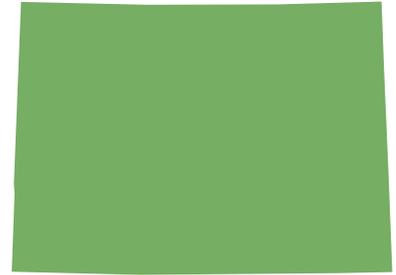


Colorado



National CLAS Standards Planning, Policies, and Collaboration

Colorado has implemented the National CLAS Standards through its policies and strategic planning efforts, which include the 2015 release of [Healthy Colorado: Shaping a State of Health](#),¹ Colorado's 5-year plan for improving public health and the environment. The plan features a statewide goal to increase adoption and implementation of the National CLAS Standards within the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and across local public health agencies. Specific objectives under this goal include increasing department staff using centralized language services for interpretation; measuring language services and utilization rates, and using results to guide planning and resource allocation; and increasing local public health agency awareness and use of the National CLAS Standards through training and technical assistance.

Colorado's 2008 Public Health Act requires a public health improvement plan every 5 years. A requirement of the Act is that the state plans include a description of strategies to develop and promote culturally and linguistically appropriate services. In the first plan, [Colorado's Public Health Improvement Plan: From Act to Action](#)² (2009), the Colorado Board of Health proposed the adoption of quality standards to ensure effective delivery of core services. The

incorporation of the National CLAS Standards in public health standards was identified as an action step for achieving this goal.

In *Strong Minds, Strong Futures: Colorado's Trauma Informed System of Care Plan*,³ the Colorado Department of Human Services detailed approaches to improving and integrating services for children and youth with serious behavioral health challenges and their families. One goal of the plan is to make policy, administrative, and regulatory changes to increase the number of children receiving appropriate and integrated care in the community. An objective of this goal is to train current ombudsman programs on the National CLAS Standards to address cultural concerns.

In the [HIV Care and Treatment Program Standards of Care](#)⁴ issued by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, providers of Ryan White Part B services in Colorado are required to provide services that are culturally and linguistically appropriate and that adhere to the National CLAS Standards. This includes developing, implementing, and promoting a written strategic plan to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services; providing educational materials and required documentation in the native language of the populations served; and ensuring access to translation services for clients with limited English proficiency.

Endnotes

- 1 Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. (2015). *Healthy Colorado: Shaping a State of Health*. Retrieved March 16, 2015 from Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment: https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/OPP_2015-CO-State-Plan.pdf.
- 2 Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. (2009). *Colorado's Public Health Improvement Plan: From Act to Action*. Retrieved December 18, 2014, from Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment: https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/OPP_COPHIP-2009.pdf.
- 3 Colorado Department of Human Services. (2012, October 26). *Strong Minds, Strong Futures: Colorado's Trauma Informed System of Care Plan*.

Retrieved December 18, 2014, from Colorado.gov: <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite?blobcol=urldata&blobheadername1=Content-Disposition&blobheadername2=Content-Type&blobheadervalue1=inline%3B+filename%3D%22Early+Childhood+System+of+Care+Plan+Matrix+10192012.pdf%22&blobheadervalue2=application%2Fpdf&blobkey=id&blobtable=MungoBlobs&blobwhere=1251834567636&cssbinary=true>

- 4 Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. (2012, April 16). *HIV Care and Treatment Program Standards of Care*. Retrieved December 18, 2014, from Colorado.gov: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/Attachment%20B%20Standards%20of%20Care%20.pdf>.