COLORADO IS REDUCING UNINTENDED PREGNANCY

Colorado’s Unparalleled Public Health Success Story

In 2008, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment received support from a private donor to launch the Colorado Family Planning Initiative, an expansion of the Family Planning Program. The program is run through clinics that receive operational support through county appropriations, client fees, insurance reimbursement and Title X – a federal grant program that supports high-quality family planning services for individuals who may otherwise lack access to care. The support provided training, operational support, and low- or no-cost long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs) to low-income women statewide. Given the effort’s demonstrated ability to reduce unintended pregnancy and abortion rates, the department has continued support through the state budget.

LARCs are defined as intrauterine devices (IUDs) and hormonal implants and are the most effective and reliable contraceptive available. The upfront costs of these devices often put them out of reach for women with financial challenges.

By the end of 2017, the Colorado Family Planning Initiative provided LARCs to 51,427 women who could not have otherwise afforded them.

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THIS IS WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

WOMEN AGES 15 – 19
Between 2009 and 2017 teen birth and abortion rates plummeted.

WOMEN AGES 20 – 24
Between 2009 and 2017 birth and abortion rates for young women plummeted.

LARCs work.
Colorado has become a national leader and model for other state-level family planning efforts. In seven years, access to these effective contraceptives have dramatically reduced Colorado’s unintended pregnancy and abortion rates.

59% decrease in birth rate
60% decrease in abortion rate

WOMEN BENEFITTED SINCE 2008
51,427

35% decrease in birth rate
41% decrease in abortion rate

51,427 women benefitted since 2008
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LARC4CO is a broad coalition of over 60 organizations and groups statewide who support Colorado’s continued success in improving the health and well-being of Colorado’s children and families. Visit our website www.larc4CO.com, or contact Erin Miller at Erin@coloradokids.org or 303.620.4560 to learn more.