

2022



BOULDER COUNTY STATE LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET PRIORITIES

LEGISLATIVE

The following are Boulder County's priorities for the 2022 legislative session, including references to legislation that will be introduced in the General Assembly. Boulder County staff will be active in any legislation introduced in these areas, and we ask for our delegation members' support for these bills that are important to Boulder County and our constituents.

HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Health Care: Support access to health care insurance for people without immigration authorization.

Behavioral Health: Support increased access to mental health and substance use services, including programs to increase and retain behavioral health providers.

Anticipated legislation: Several pieces of legislation to implement recommendations of the Behavioral Health Transformational Task Force, implementation of the Behavioral Health Administration, and improve access to Medicaid-funded Behavioral Health services

HOUSING

Support state policy and funding initiatives to increase Colorado's stock of permanently affordable housing and expand access to diverse housing options.

Anticipated legislation: Strengthening of Opportunity to Purchase legislation and improved protections for homeowners in manufactured housing communities

ENVIRONMENT

Reduce the use of disposable and single-use products and promote the reuse of materials.

Anticipated legislation: Extended producer responsibility legislation to shift recycling costs from local governments to product manufacturers

Support state regulation and other policy means to protect air quality.

Anticipated legislation: Air quality legislation to address ongoing ozone nonattainment in the Denver metro region and greenhouse gas emissions from various sources across the state

FOREST HEALTH AND WILDFIRE RESILIENCY

Support legislative efforts to promote wildfire mitigation and reduce the structural ignitability of homes in the wildland urban interface.

Anticipated legislation: Statewide building code approach to address new construction in the wildland-urban interface area

Support insurance reforms to better protect property owners who lose their homes to wildfire.

Anticipated legislation: Legislation to create new coverage requirements for property insurance policies to apply in the event of the total loss of a home as a result of a declared wildfire disaster

AGING SERVICES

Support modernization of the Older Coloradans Act to deliver twenty-first century services to Colorado's older adults.

Anticipated legislation: Legislation to modernize the Older Coloradans Act

(over)

STATE BUDGET

In the development of the FY 2022-2023 state budget, Boulder County asks for the support of the General Assembly in maintaining or increasing appropriation levels for the following important areas. More detail about these positions can be found in the relevant sections of Boulder County's Legislative Agenda.

COVID-19 PRIORITIES

Economic Relief: Address the disparate impact of the pandemic on low-income and parenting workers through direct cash assistance.

HOUSING

Support the legislature's Affordable Housing Transformational Task Force recommendations for ARPA investments to support flexible local government and nonprofit affordable housing grants.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Support the legislature's Behavioral Health Transformational Task Force recommendations for county grants to increase access to mental health and substance use services for youth involved in welfare and juvenile justice, increased funding of co-responder and alternative responder programs, medication-assisted treatment in jails, and increased inpatient treatment.

DISASTER RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY

Wildfire Resiliency: Increase wildfire mitigation funding.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Air Quality: Support the Governor's budget request for \$424 million of one-time General Fund investments in a broad set of targeted initiatives including greening the transportation system, decarbonizing the industrial and aviation sector, and additional resources to CDPHE.

HUMAN SERVICES

County Administration Study: Study the pandemic's impact on the provision of county safety net and other support services

Division of Youth Services IMPACT Partnership Contract and Collaborative Management Programs: Continue Division of Youth Services contract and support ongoing funding for these effective, cost-saving programs that reduce youth detention, commitment, out-of-home placement, and recidivism.

Child Welfare: Ensure that the Child Welfare system is fully funded, including sufficient funding for prevention, caseworkers, and the ability to effectively implement the federal Family First Prevention Services Act.

AGING SERVICES

Older Adults: Maintain funding for programs for older adults such as the Older Coloradans Program and Old Age Pension.

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