LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friend of CCLP,

The past year marked a historic year for poverty reduction in Colorado and the Colorado Center on Law and Policy.

On the health care front, Medicaid expansion was implemented and a brand new concept for purchasing health insurance — the new insurance marketplace known as Connect for Health Colorado — was introduced to consumers.

On the economic security side, Colorado made the greatest investment in child care in a generation. That means thousands of single moms and low-income families will have access to more affordable child care, allowing the parents to enter and stay in the workforce without having to worry about their child’s well-being.

And here at CCLP, we turned a huge corner. You’ll notice we’ve been fortunate to lure highly qualified professionals to fill openings on staff. At the same time, you’ll also notice that we’ve got some new supporters, and a lot more of them.

This is a new day at CCLP. We remain committed to serving as a powerhouse for the poor, but we are also more committed than ever to the financial stability of our organization. That stability is partly reflected in this document, and will become more evident as the year goes on. Our work advocating for the neediest Coloradans is possible only if we are a stable, thriving organization. Our strength depends on you. You make our work possible, and I’m grateful for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Claire Levy
Executive Director

ABOUT CCLP

Dedicated to reducing poverty and advancing economic security, the Colorado Center on Law and Policy has served as the leading voice for low-income Coloradans for more than 15 years.

As a leader in the advocacy community, CCLP provides policymakers, opinion leaders, nonprofit organizations and the general public with research and analysis about issues important to low-income Coloradans; we advocate in the legislature and before executive decision makers to further those issues; and we litigate them when necessary.

Our Mission

The Colorado Center on Law and Policy advances the health, economic security and wellbeing of low-income Coloradans through research, education, advocacy and litigation.

Our History

CCLP is the only organization that provides the critical advocacy formerly provided by Colorado’s federally funded legal services programs. In 1995 and 1996, legal services programs suffered significant losses due to federal budget cuts. New federal laws prohibited many forms of administrative and legislative advocacy and barred legal aid programs from participating in class action litigation. These laws severely restricted critical legal advocacy and representation of the poor by Colorado’s legal services programs. The Colorado Lawyers’ Trust Account Foundation provided funds to establish an independent nonprofit agency to continue the work federally funded legal services agencies could no longer do, forming CCLP in 1998. Since then, CCLP has become a leader in the advocacy community and in working with key policy stakeholders on health care, welfare reform, fiscal policy and other critical issues.
CLLAIRE LEVY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR


Those traits set Claire Levy apart.

CCLP’s Board of Directors identified those qualities in Claire when it hired her in October 2013 to serve as CCLP’s fourth executive director.

“Claire’s arrival marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter in the history of CCLP. As a well-respected leader in our community, she brings a level of prominence and expertise to the organization that I think is reflected in the success our organization has experienced in just her first six months,” said James Scarboro, the chairman of CCLP’s board of directors.

Claire came to serve CCLP after serving seven years in the Colorado House of Representatives. In that role she distinguished herself as a leader on several issues, including serving as the voice for people who are often overlooked in public policy. She served in leadership roles on the Judiciary, Appropriations and Joint Budget committees.

“CCLP’s staff and Board are excited about the new energy and vision that Claire brings to the organization,” Scarboro said.

In 2013, the ACLU Colorado honored Claire with its Carl Whitehead Memorial Award for her legislative work on reducing prison sentences, reforming juvenile justice practices, fighting discrimination and advocating for the repeal of the death penalty.
The Colorado Center on Law and Policy made progress in the pursuit of poverty reduction in the past year. On the advocacy, research, legislative and litigation fronts CCLP staff made a difference in advancing economic opportunity for low-income Coloradans.

The implementation of the Affordable Care Act brought a reduction in the number of Coloradans who are uninsured. And while the growing economy resulted in more jobs available to Coloradans, work remains to be done in building a fairer economy as many Colorado families have seen their income stagnate in past decade.

CCLP’s work effectively addresses policy shortcomings because our staff members routinely reach out to allies to inform our work with the experience of others. As part of that effort, CCLP plays a leading role in the following coalitions:

- Skills2Compete Colorado
- Health Advocates Alliance
- All Families Deserve a Chance Coalition
- Colorado Social Legislation Committee
- Women’s Lobby of Colorado

CCLP’s research team produced a wide variety of data and analysis that helped shape the public discussion on issues related to poverty reduction in the past year, including:

- *Our Dollars, Our Health*, which revealed an inexplicable variance in costs at hospitals in Colorado.
- *Colorado Works Handbook*, which provides guidance to consumers on how to navigate the benefits provided to low-income Coloradans through the Colorado Works program.

In 2013, The Health Care team solidified its status as the leading consumer advocates in Colorado.
- Our attorneys secured benefits for thousands of Coloradans on Medicaid who were wrongly denied coverage.
- We trained lawyers to handle Exchange and Medicaid appeals.
- We worked with two partner organizations on the Consumer Engagement Project, which provided policymakers with early feedback about effectiveness of the implementation of key parts of the
The Colorado Center on Law and Policy played a decisive role in developing and advancing a number of meaningful bills that Governor John Hickenlooper signed into law in 2014.

Three of those bills will improve the lives of low-income Coloradans by lowering the cost of child care for the poorest working families.

- HB-1072 ensures that low-wage workers will be able to claim an income tax credit for a portion of their child care costs.
- HB-1317 and SB-3 improves the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program by expanding the number of families who are served, providing greater payment assistance and allocating funding for the development of solutions to the cliff effect.

Health care affordability was another area in which CCLP played a leading role at the Capitol. CCLP led the push for SB-187, which created the Colorado Commission on Affordable Health Care. The commission, which will include CCLP’s Health Program Director Elisabeth Arenales, will recommend solutions for mitigating health care cost drivers in Colorado.

CCLP drove the success of several other key bills, including:

- SB-50, which sets uniform standards for the implementation of hospital financial assistance policies and creates an enforcement mechanism when corrective action is necessary.
- SB-12, which improves benefits to Coloradans living with a disability who have little or no income and assets and are physically unable to work. It increases the amount of monthly assistance provided through the Aid to the Needy Disabled (AND) program and creates a pilot program that will help more AND recipients transition to federal aid programs.
- HB-1085, which provides state funding for adult basic education and promotes partnerships between adult education providers and workforce development organizations.
- Two bills were passed that reduces the barriers that prevent many Coloradans from obtaining a photo ID. SB-194 designates special DMV staff to help those who have trouble accessing their birth certificate navigate the application process. SB-87 allows for simple resolutions to cases involving minor inconsistencies in the spelling of names.
LOOKING AHEAD

Health care costs

Rising health care costs present serious challenges for Coloradans. Between 2000 and 2010 the average yearly premium for a family with private insurance skyrocketed from $6,797 to $13,393 — a 97 percent increase. In order for policymakers to make effective decisions about containing costs, more needs to be known about the drivers of rising health care costs.

CCLP’s Health Program Director Elisabeth Arenales will serve on the newly formed Colorado Commission on Affordable Health Care. In that role, she will provide an independent consumer voice to the critical discussion about how the state can address rising health care costs.

Poverty Network

CCLP is taking the lead on organizing a statewide poverty-reduction network. The network will include service providers, policy groups, regional organizations and governmental entities. As the coordinator of the network, CCLP will manage the development of policy proposals that will reduce poverty and expand economic security for low-income Coloradans.

Health Equity

CCLP works on the intersection of poverty and access to health care that so often results in disparities in health outcomes. Certain groups of people and places across the state have less access to health coverage and services and consistently have worse health outcomes. CCLP focuses on efforts to improve health equity so all Coloradans have the opportunity to achieve health and wellbeing.

Health equity goes beyond health care access and affordability. Individual and community health and wellbeing are inextricably linked to social and economic factors. The issue of health disparities often emerges in our work given its deep connection to poverty.
# CCLP STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

**Year ended Dec. 31, 2013**

## SUPPORT AND REVENUE

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
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<td>Contributions</td>
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<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
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<td>($463,578)</td>
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<td><strong>Total Support and Revenue</strong></td>
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## EXPENSES

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<td>Family Economic Security Program</td>
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<td>Health Care Program</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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## CHANGE IN ASSETS

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<td>Increase (decrease) in net assets before discontinued operations</td>
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<td>Discontinued operations — contributions (COFPI)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discontinued operations — program expenses (COFPI)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increase (decrease) in net assets</td>
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<td>Net assets beginning of year</td>
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<td><strong>Net Assets End of Year</strong></td>
<td><strong>$185,790</strong></td>
<td><strong>$105,474</strong></td>
<td><strong>$291,264</strong></td>
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CCLP’s complete 2013 financial audit can be found online at cclponline.org.
PEOPLE WHO MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE

CCLP depends on generous donors to continue our work for economic security for low-income Coloradans. To show your support, visit www.cclponline.org/donate.

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Anonymous
Anonymous

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