

# Ask Your Candidate: What About **Child Poverty**?



Too many Colorado families who qualify for help can't get it — not because the programs don't exist, but because the systems delivering them were not built with families in mind.

Colorado has the opportunity to fundamentally redesign how public assistance works. But the state needs leadership to make sure that vision becomes a reality — **a system that is simple, responsive, and easy for families to navigate when they need it most.**

## THE NUMBERS

1 in 4

One in four Colorado children lives in **economic hardship**

4x

Single-parent households are nearly four times as likely to **struggle financially**

600K+

More than **600,000 Colorado kids** depend on Medicaid, CHP+, TANF, and other federal safety net programs

## WHAT IS COLORADO GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

### KEY PRIORITIES

- **Build a benefits system that actually works** — fully reform the public assistance model so families get consistent, reliable help no matter what county they live in
- **Modernize the technology** — replace Colorado's outdated benefits management system with one the state owns and controls, designed around what families need
- **Hold the system accountable for results** — move from checking boxes to measuring real outcomes for kids and families through performance-based standards and data-driven oversight
- **Protect and maximize tax credits** — ensure families receive the full value of the Child Tax Credit and Family Affordability Tax Credit, two of the most effective tools we have to reduce child poverty
- **Equity across ZIP codes** — families in rural communities and underserved areas face the biggest gaps between what they qualify for and what they can truly access

### ASK YOUR CANDIDATE

- ✓ How will you ensure public assistance programs actually reach families who need it?
- ✓ What is your plan for modernizing Colorado's benefits technology so it works for families, not against them?
- ✓ How will you hold the safety net accountable for delivering real results — not just processing applications?
- ✓ How will you protect and expand tax credits that directly reduce child poverty?
- ✓ What will you do to ensure single-parent households and the most economically vulnerable families don't fall through the cracks?
- ✓ How will you protect federal programs like Medicaid, CHP+, and TANF that more than 600,000 Colorado kids depend on?

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