



To whom it may concern,

At Children's Hospital Colorado, we believe that health equity is achieved when everyone has access to the resources and opportunities that they need to attain their highest level of health. Fostering health equity requires intentionally engaging in the process of removing obstacles to health such as poverty, food insecurity, discrimination, and even more for some groups. Achieving health equity is linked to access to good jobs, quality education, essential healthcare, safe and stable housing, and several more social and political determinants.

Children's Colorado believes that we, as a national leader in pediatric healthcare, have a responsibility in understanding that healthcare disparities exist and that it is part of our duty to address them. While we are continuing to strive toward achieving health equity, we are proud of initiatives that are helping address some of the root causes of inequity.

In Colorado, the mortality rate for infants who are Black is more than twice that of infants who are white. Institutional and structural racism are major contributing factors to this disparity. Racism also contributes to the stress, social isolation and heightened mortality rates that Black families experience. When racism is displayed and acted upon in hospitals and healthcare settings, it can cause traumatic experiences and death. With a host of community partners, Children's Colorado founded the [Black Health Initiative](#) to disrupt the racism that causes negative outcomes and experiences for Black families, in hopes to reduce infant mortality rates and improve the healthcare experience for Black families in our community.

Children's Colorado also recognizes that there are many dimensions of difference, such as race, gender identity, sexuality, veteran status, socioeconomic status and more, including those living with disabilities and complex medical needs. [KidStreet](#) is a program uniquely designed to provide daily childcare and rehabilitation services for infants and children with complex medical needs. These children receive the skilled nursing and rehabilitative therapy care their medical conditions require, while still engaging in developmentally appropriate activities and interacting with other similarly aged children.

KidStreet is located in the Children's Colorado [Health Pavilion](#), a 110,000-plus square-foot location that includes primary care and specialty clinics, outpatient behavioral health services, pharmacy and laboratory services, dental and orthodontics, eye care, rehabilitation services, orthopedics and sports medicine - all intentionally co-located together. It is also the home of [Resource Connect](#), our program designed to address the social determinants of health in our community by connecting patient-families with social workers or health navigators that can connect them to resources for housing, food assistance, transportation and employment opportunities, among others.

Children's Colorado is also currently working to grow resources to improve language access, health equity training for team members, data collection about the health of communities we serve and other programmatic interventions.

Achieving health equity is a goal that is still on the horizon, one that we strive for, thanks in large part to team members who know that closing those gaps in access is key to providing the best patient care possible. As an organization, we are continuously learning and improving our practices as we strive to achieve health equity in the seven-state region we serve.

Sincerely,

Jena Hausmann

Chief Executive Officer  
Children's Hospital Colorado

13123 E 16th Ave, Aurora, CO 80045  
720-777-1234 | [childrenscolorado.org](http://childrenscolorado.org)

Affiliated with  
 University of Colorado  
Anschutz Medical Campus