



The
Colorado
Opportunity
Project

Project Goal: To deliver evidence-based initiatives that provide the opportunity for all Coloradans to reach middle class¹ by middle age.

Below are the Colorado Opportunity Project "indicators"², or milestones, that help Coloradans stay on the path towards self-sufficiency and economic success.

LIFE STAGE



ADOLESCENCE
(ages 12 – 17)

Graduates from high school on time, develops healthy social emotional skills, not convicted of a crime, nor become a teen parent



TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD
(ages 18 – 29)

Currently sustainably employed having attended post-secondary education & has good physical/mental health



ADULTHOOD
(ages 30 – 40)

Employment status, has good physical /mental health & middle class household (300% FPL¹)

OPPORTUNITY INDICATORS

✓ high school graduation status

✓ violent arrest & property arrest rates

✓ teen parent status

✓ % of students (6th - 12th grade) who report ever feeling sad/hopeless or have considered suicide

✓ % of young adults (ages 18 - 25) who are currently depressed

✓ employed status of population (ages 16 - 19, by race and gender)

✓ % FPL/family income

✓ attending post-secondary training/education

✓ avg. # of days poor physical/mental health prevented usual activities, like self-care, work, or recreation

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✓ % of FPL/family income at age 29

✓ employment status of population (by education level, ages 25+)

¹ Middle class = having a family income of 300% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) or higher at age 40

² Selected indicators based on available statewide data and quality measures; older adult measures to be added



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LIFE STAGE



FAMILY FORMATION
(positive birth circumstances)

Planned pregnancy, born at healthy birth weight, to dual parent household without maternal depression



EARLY CHILDHOOD
(ages 0 – 5)

School readiness, healthy social emotional skills & family access to affordable, nutritious food



MIDDLE CHILDHOOD
(ages 6 – 11)

Math/Reading skills & healthy social emotional skills

OPPORTUNITY INDICATORS

✓ rate of low birth weight

✓ family income

✓ maternal depression

✓ single- or dual-parent household

✓ unintended pregnancy

✓ % of parents concerned about child's emotions, concentration, behavior, or ability to get along with others (ages 0 - 8)

✓ % of families relying on low cost food

✓ children whose family members read to them less than 3 days/week

✓ standardized test: math scores

✓ standardized test: reading scores

✓ % of parents concerned about child's emotions, concentration, behavior, or ability to get along with others (ages 9 - 14)

¹ Middle class = having a family income of 300% Federal Poverty Level (FPL) or higher at age 40

² Indicators in the Colorado Opportunity project framework have been vetted and finalized by the Department of Public Health and Environment, Human Services and Health Care Policy and Financing with the support of the Brookings institution and are based on available statewide data and quality measures