



Colorado Chamber
FOUNDATION

*Colorado Chamber of
Commerce Foundation*

2024 **IMPACT REPORT**



Colorado Chamber
FOUNDATION

Mission

The Colorado Chamber Foundation supports research, programs and solutions that will drive opportunity and growth for Colorado's economy and advance the well-being of our communities through outreach and civic education.



The Colorado Chamber Foundation has set out with a vision to drive economic growth and opportunity across every corner of the state. We're working collaboratively with the statewide business community to focus on forward-thinking solutions that will elevate Colorado's future. Using the power of research and data, community engagement, and strategic initiatives, the Foundation is committed to fostering a vibrant future for all Coloradans. We're proud to showcase all of our accomplishments in this 2024 Impact Report and look forward to continued success in the years to come!

Loren Furman

President and CEO

Colorado Chamber Foundation

Vision 2033

BLUEPRINT FOR COLORADO'S FUTURE

The Colorado Chamber of Commerce operates with a simple and compelling vision: Make Colorado a top state to do business in the nation, where dynamic business leaders choose to invest, innovate and create opportunities and prosperity for Coloradans. That's why the Chamber set out to explore our state's current strengths, gaps and opportunities of the state's business climate. The result was a comprehensive 10-year strategic action plan to foster sustained growth in Colorado – Vision 2033.

After nearly two years of development, in October 2023 the Colorado Chamber Foundation launched Vision 2033, laying out key areas of focus and specific recommendations to create opportunity for Coloradans and secure the state's economic future. We secured economic research and state-by-state competitiveness data, conducted multiple statewide surveys of businesses, performed confidential and quantitative interviews with CEO's and held a statewide listening tour in all four corners of the state. By relying on this information, we examined factors that are key to Colorado's ability to continue to attract residents and businesses, nurture a larger, more effective workforce and make Colorado a top state in the country to do business.

Vision 2033, guided by Colorado's business leaders, establishes a foundation for improving the state's competitiveness. Each focus area contains specific goals, actions, and metrics for success. The Colorado Chamber Foundation is now poised with dynamic initiatives that provide business direction, leadership and bold solutions to drive Colorado's growth for decades to come.

“Colorado is at an important crossroads. Our analysis shows the state economy is strong, but there are serious warning signs threatening future growth. If business leaders and lawmakers take the right actions now, Colorado will be well positioned to adapt, becoming a top state for business as the global and national economy continues to evolve.”

Ted Abernathy

*Managing Partner of
Economic Leadership LLC*



BUSINESS
COMMUNITY
INVESTMENT IN

*Vision
2033*


Colorado Chamber
FOUNDATION


DATA &
RESEARCH


IN-DEPTH
INTERVIEWS
WITH CEOs


REGIONAL
MEETINGS
WITH BUSINESS
LEADERS


BUSINESS
SURVEYS


COMPETITIVE
LANDSCAPE
ASSESSMENT

FOUR FOCUS AREAS



WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT



COST OF
LIVING



BUSINESS
CLIMATE



ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY

Vision 2033 ACTION PLAN

FUNDRAISING GOAL
\$2 MILLION OVER 3 YEARS

PROGRESS AS OF AUGUST 2024
\$1.2 MILLION

INVESTMENT ALLOCATION

- Workforce Development Programs
- Research and Reports
- Staffing Support, Including New Regulatory Affairs Advisor
- Consulting Support
- Environmental Sustainability Task Force
- Technology Alliance
- Legal Reform Alliance
- Education to Employment Alliance

Research

FUNDING CRITICAL STUDIES & REPORTS

To support the work of the Colorado Chamber Foundation and Vision 2033, the organization funds educational research and analyses. From economic impact reports and studies to business surveys, this work is critical to the Foundation's mission.

2023 Business Leaders Survey *Published September 2023*

In its second annual poll, the Chamber released a survey of 156 business leaders to cover key economic and policy issues relevant to the statewide business community. The survey highlighted Colorado's regulatory climate and the challenges it poses on the state's economic competitiveness.

Job Market Reports *Launched April 2023,* *Released Quarterly*

In partnership with Aspen Technology Labs, these quarterly jobs reports provide insights into job vacancies and workforce trends across the state. This real-time data helps to better understand Colorado's economic landscape and informs the Chamber's workforce initiatives.

Colorado Scorecard *Launched October 2023,* *Updated Annually*

The Scorecard is a digital dashboard tracking more than 60 data points related to Colorado's competitiveness, economy and key industries. The scorecard compiles annual rankings, statistics and surveys to assess where Colorado stands and monitor progress over time.

Education to Employment Alliance Report *Published October 2023*

IBusiness groups representing more than 2,000 employers across the state have come together to form the Education to Employment Alliance, which released a report highlighting critical workforce challenges faced by Colorado employers. It lays out give key recommendations to address issues like the skills gap and higher education workforce preparedness.

Environmental & Sustainability Task Force Report

Published January 2024

Following a year-long strategic collaboration among industry groups, this report lays out key recommendations and collective actions that can be taken at the state level to reach environmental goals and reduce emissions while preserving the state's economic competitiveness.

Comprehensive Regulatory Impact Study

Launched November 2024

Expected Completion October 2024
The Colorado Chamber Foundation has commissioned a team of economists to develop a study analyzing the effect of state regulations on various stakeholders in Colorado, including businesses, economic activities, taxpayers, and workforce development. The full report will include an impact model, scenario analysis and policy white paper.

Noneconomic Damage Caps Impact Report

Published April 2024

Released in partnership with the American Property Casualty Insurance Association, this report assesses the impact of removing noneconomic damage caps in Colorado. The report estimated that removing such caps would result in a \$2.1 billion annual loss in state GDP and 15,500 jobs.

Colorado Technology Industry Trends Report

Launched February 2025

Expected Completion December 2024
In partnership with the Colorado Technology Association, this report will compare the performance of Colorado's tech industry against other states and top metro areas. It will focus on the assets and emerging technologies of the Colorado tech ecosystem and highlight challenges for our tech hub.



Alliances

STRATEGIC INDUSTRY COLLABORATION

As an initiative of Vision 2033, several new Colorado Chamber alliances have been created to target priority focus areas and allow a space for industry leaders to collaborate. These alliances address key challenges facing each sector and formulate future-focused solutions to improve our state's economic growth. Each alliance holds regular meetings throughout the year.

Legal Reform Alliance

Created in October 2023, this alliance includes representation of legal counsel and businesses committed to reversing the trajectory of Colorado's legal climate

41 ACTIVE MEMBERS

Tech Alliance

Created in October 2023, this alliance unites the voice of the statewide tech industry to advance industry growth.

25 ACTIVE MEMBERS

Environmental & Sustainability Task Force

Launched in February 2023, this alliance brings together diverse business interests to collaborate on environmental regulations and improving emissions.

33 ACTIVE MEMBERS

Education to Employment Alliance

Launched in October 2023, this alliance brings together major workforce-focused groups to improve Colorado's talent pipeline

5 PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTING

> 2,000 EMPLOYERS STATEWIDE

INVESTMENT IN
CHAMBER ALLIANCES
IN 2023-24

\$350,000

Workforce

IMPROVING COLORADO'S TALENT PIPELINE

Workforce challenges have consistently ranked among the top two issues for employers in Colorado Chamber business surveys. We want our workforce to be among the top in the nation, equipped with the skills needed to take on the jobs of the future. As a key focus area of Vision 2033, a major initiative of the Chamber Foundation is to address our skills gaps and improve the talent pipeline to create opportunities for Coloradans.



Using the report as a guide, the Colorado Chamber helped to pass a law requiring the state to establish seven regional talent development plans across Colorado, a key initiative of the Alliance. The Chamber Foundation has worked closely with the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade to plan the summits where these meetings will take shape.

The seven regional summits will occur in 2025, bringing employers and educators to the same table to identify talent gaps. They will partner on the creation of new career pathways in which certain sectors will work with specified educational institutions on curricula that will better prepare students for needed jobs.

The Chamber Foundation continues to work with its partners in the Education to Employment Alliance to identify long-term fixes to the workforce development system to put employers at the top of the chain in identifying skills they need taught in K-12 and higher education. It recently launched with those partners a higher education funding reform effort that will ensure public resources go to schools and workforce training providers who have proven success in launching graduates into sustainably-paying careers.





National Civics Bee

ENGAGING COLORADO YOUTH IN CIVIC EDUCATION

In 2023, the Colorado Chamber Foundation received a grant through the Daniels Fund and Civic Trust of the U.S. Chamber to be one of the first states to launch the National Civics Bee. The goal of this program is to encourage civic engagement among our youth and show how they can positively contribute to our local communities.

In the second year of the National Civics Bee for 2024, the program expanded to include a local media partnership with 9News. The Colorado Chamber Foundation collaborated with six local chambers of commerce to host regional competitions. Approximately 240 students entered the competition by submitting essays on how to solve a problem in their community. Students participated in live quiz events and were pressed on their civics knowledge by a panel of judges. The top three students from each regional competition competed in the statewide championship hosted by the Colorado Chamber Foundation. Colorado's state champion, Joseph Drexler, will compete for the first-ever national title in November.

The Colorado Chamber Foundation's program was named a finalist for a national civics award and is used as a model for other states pursuing their own programs. The Foundation will continue this program into 2025.

2023 CITIZENS AWARD



BEST CIVICS ENGAGEMENT
PROGRAM FINALIST

BROADCAST MEDIA EXPOSURE

TOTAL TV
COVERAGE
VIEWERSHIP

974,000

TV COVERAGE
PUBLICITY
VALUE

\$498,000



U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Foundation



DANIELS FUND.

Community Engagement

BUSINESS GIVES BACK



In partnership with Chamber investors, the Colorado Chamber Foundation's Community Impact Day provided local nonprofit organizations with volunteers to complete community projects. This new event for 2024 enhanced the Foundation's community engagement and allowed participating organizations to give back through a variety of volunteer events across Colorado.

The first Community Impact Day kicked off on September 18, 2024. Volunteer events were hosted by the following organizations:

Networking Sponsor



The Food Bank of the Rockies

Distributing meals to people in need at the mobile pantry.



Girls Inc. of Metro Denver

Updating a multipurpose room for use by Girls Inc. programs.



The Town of Georgetown

Cleaning up Georgetown Lake trails and area parks.



EPIC Colorado & Denver's Early Childhood Council

Outdoor improvements to playground and recreation areas.



TOTAL IMPACT

75

VOLUNTEERS

200

COMBINED
HOURS OF SERVICE

150

BAGS OF TRASH
CLEARED
IN GEORGETOWN

110

BARRELS OF MULCH
LAID AT CHILDREN'S
CENTER

\$22,500

SPONSOR INVESTMENT

Lead Sponsor

Thank You

TO THE COLORADO CHAMBER
FOUNDATION'S INVESTORS



KODIAK
BUILDING PARTNERS

Key Investors



Supporting Sponsors



Get Involved

CONNECT WITH US!

LEARN MORE ABOUT FOUNDATION PROGRAMS

BECOME A FOUNDATION
INVESTOR



Dave Tabor
*Executive Vice President,
Business Partnerships*
dtabor@cochamber.com

JOIN AN INDUSTRY
ALLIANCE



Meghan Dollar
*Senior Vice President,
Governmental Affairs*
mdollar@cochamber.com

NATIONAL CIVICS BEE



Lauren Stellman
Events Manager
lstellman@cochamber.com

WORKFORCE INITIATIVES



Ed Sealoover
*Vice President,
Strategic Initiatives*
esealoover@cochamber.com



Colorado Chamber
FOUNDATION



Colorado Chamber
FOUNDATION

JOIN US IN ADVANCING
ECONOMIC GROWTH TO
DRIVE OPPORTUNITY
for All Coloradans.