



**ASPEN INSTITUTE**

**COLORADO CHILDREN & FAMILIES  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FELLOWSHIP**

**CLASS OF 2017 – 2018**

 **ASCEND**  
THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

# MEET THE 2017 ASPEN INSTITUTE CHILDREN & FAMILIES FELLOWS

The Children and Families Health and Human Services Fellowship at the Aspen Institute invests in visionary Colorado leaders committed to making Colorado the best place to have a child and sustain a healthy, thriving family.

Collectively, they will advance solutions to transform the culture and systems that serve children and families in Colorado. They will accelerate innovation and collaboration across communities and sectors. The Fellowship lifts up leaders who reflect the diversity and talent of Colorado.



**Phyllis Albritton**  
**P-Cubed Partners**

Phyllis Albritton is a principal with P-Cubed Partners. She has more than 20 years' experience in healthcare, technology and nonprofits, and extensive experience with innovative public and

private start-ups where building the right team and meeting benchmarks for success are core principles.



**Erin Brown**  
**Office of Children's Affairs,  
Denver**

Erin Brown is the executive director for the Office of Children's Affairs with the City and County of Denver. The Office works to improve quality and increase access

to experiences that will ensure all children have

resources and opportunities to succeed in school, in the workplace, and in a global society, regardless of race, ethnicity, income or disability.



**Matthew Dodson**  
**Archuleta County Department  
of Human Services**

Matthew Dodson is the Director of Archuleta County Department of Human Services. The Department's assistance programs are provided to eligible residents in financial need and include

federal food, cash, and medical benefits, as well as child care, child support, energy assistance, child welfare, and adult protection, prevention, and intervention services, so children and adults have a future that is bright, full of hope, opportunity, and security.



**Verónica Figoli**  
**Denver Public Schools  
Foundation**

Verónica Figoli is the president and CEO of the Denver Public Schools Foundation, overseeing the strategy, operations, and fundraising and managing a \$15 million

annual budget. The Foundation generates resources, builds relationships, and champions public education to impact system-wide achievement and help every child succeed.



**Anthony Gherardini**  
**Colorado Department of  
Human Services**

Anthony Gherardini is the deputy executive director of operations at the Colorado Department of Human Services. In that role, he oversees the Offices of Administrative

Solutions and Performance and Strategic Outcomes as well as Department facilities that operate 24 hours a day, such as mental health institutes and veterans living communities.



**Dr. Tista Ghosh**  
**Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment**

Tista Ghosh serves as the deputy chief medical officer and the director of public health programs for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. The Department's

mission is to protect and improve the health of Colorado's people and the quality of its environment.



**Gretchen Hammer**  
**Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing**

Gretchen Hammer is Colorado's Medicaid director. Her office administers public health insurance for Coloradans who are low income and disabled, including Medicaid and the

Child Health Plan *Plus*.



**Nikki Hatch**  
**Administration for Children and Families, Region 8**

Nikki Hatch is the Regional Administrator for the Administration for Children and Families, Region 8, which serves Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and

Wyoming. In this capacity, Hatch partners with state, local, community-based organizations, and tribes to promote the economic and social well-being of children, families, individuals, and communities in the region.



**William Jaeger**  
**Colorado Children's Campaign**

Bill Jaeger serves as the vice president of early childhood initiatives at the Colorado Children's Campaign, leading efforts to advance child care, early learning, and mental health policy efforts to support

Colorado's youngest children. The Campaign is a non-profit, non-partisan research, policy, and advocacy organization committed to ensuring every chance for every child.



**Deidre Johnson**  
**The Center for African-American Health**

Deidre Johnson is the CEO and executive director of The Center for African-American Health. The Center works toward health equity for the underserved African American community by

offering culturally competent health education and outreach that empowers community members to overcome the root causes of health problems, maximize their own individual health, and access health and support services.



**Liane Jollon**  
**San Juan Basin Public Health**

Liane Jollon is the executive director of San Juan Basin Public Health, which serves all residents of Archuleta and La Plata counties. Their mission is to protect human and environmental health and

inspire well-being in their communities.



**Mark Kling**  
**Family Resource Center Association**

Mark A. Kling is executive director of the Family Resource Center Association, an association of 27 urban, rural, and resort community Family Resource Centers located across

Colorado. Family Resource Centers promote the well-being of children and families through the provision of collaborative, coordinated, and effective community-based services.



**Jeff Kuhr**  
**Mesa County Public Health**

Jeff Kuhr is the director of public health for Mesa County, Colorado. Based out of Grand Junction, his agency serves 148,000 residents on Colorado's western slope, providing a wide range of public and

environmental health services. Mesa County Public Health plays a key leadership role toward the integration of resources among local health care, social services, and public health agencies.



**Don Mares**  
**Denver Department of Human Services**

Don Mares serves as the executive director of Denver Department of Human Services. The Department provides assistance benefits and protection and prevention services to one in three Denver residents, including including food, cash and medical benefits, child care, and child support.



**Michael Niyompong**  
**Clayton Early Learning**

Michael Niyompong is chief operating officer at Denver-based Clayton Early Learning. Clayton is Colorado's leading catalyst in providing access to high-quality early care and education through a powerful model that harnesses the synergy of four dynamic initiatives – research, practice, training, and advocacy.



**Stephanie Seng**  
**Colorado State University**

Stephanie Seng currently serves as the director of the Center for Marriage and Family Therapy at Colorado State University, where she manages their community-based therapy center. She is also the director and one of the founders of the University's Child Trauma and Resilience Assessment Center, which provides extensive assessments and recommendations for children across the state who have experienced complex trauma.



**Mary Anne Snyder**  
**Colorado Department of Human Services**

Mary Anne Snyder is the director of the Office of Early Childhood at the Colorado Department of Human Services. The Office, which brought together the Division of Early Care and Learning with the new Division of Community and Family Support, provides child care licensing, subsidy, and quality initiatives, and houses early intervention, early childhood

councils, Children's Trust Fund, home visitation programs, infant and toddler mental health programs, and child maltreatment prevention.



**Cheryl Ternes**  
**Arapahoe County Department of Human Services**

Cheryl Ternes is the director of the Department of Human Services in Arapahoe County, Colorado, the state's third largest county, with a population of approximately 623,000. The Department provides child protection, foster care, adoption, adult protection, child support, and public assistance services.



**Stephanie Villafuerte**  
**Office of Colorado's Child Protection Ombudsman**

Stephanie Villafuerte serves as Colorado's Child Protection Ombudsman. This state agency is an independent and neutral organization that serves as a resource and systems navigator for stakeholders and the general public, reviews complaints about the child protection system, and makes recommendations to the legislature and state government for system improvements.



**Scott Wasserman**  
**The Bell Policy Center**

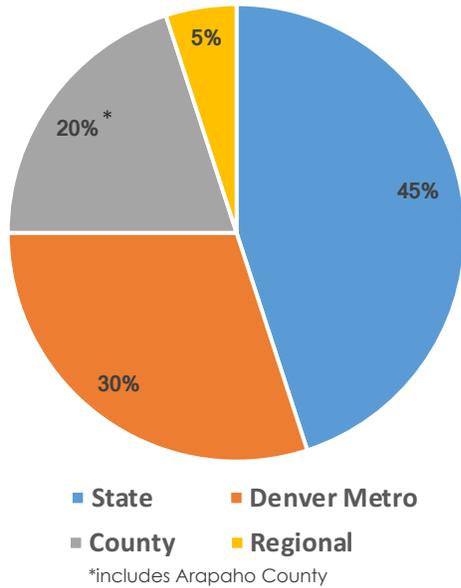
Scott Wasserman is the president of the Bell Policy Center and the Bell Action Network. The Center leads the debate on family economic security and drives public policy solutions that help Coloradans get ahead and stay ahead.

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**This Fellowship is made possible through the generous support of the Ben and Lucy Ana Fund of the Walton Family Foundation.**

# ASPEN INSTITUTE CHILDREN & FAMILIES FELLOWS

## GEOGRAPHIC INFLUENCE

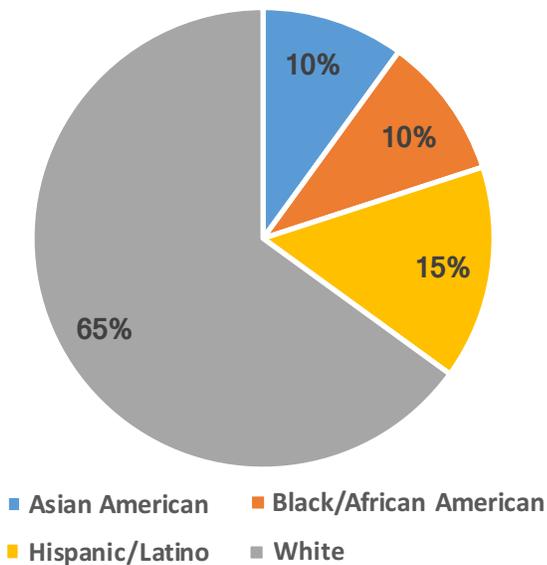


## Opportunities for Impact

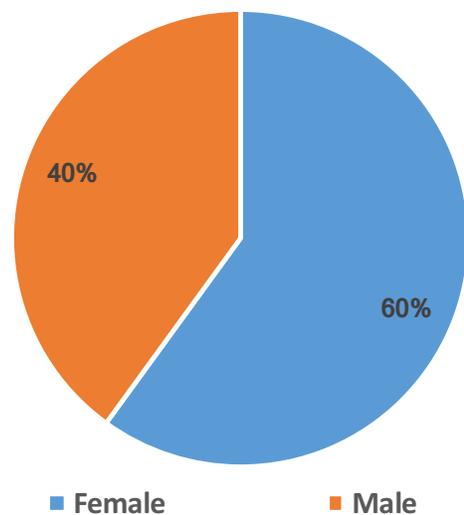
2017 Fellows:

- Lead health and human services systems in 5 rural and urban counties, serving 1.4 million Coloradans
- Share a passion for putting children and families at the center of policy and investment decisions
- Steward more than \$10 billion in public resources
- Direct the state's programs in Medicaid, early childhood, and public health
- Spark innovation and cross-sector collaboration
- Lead policy, research, and early childhood organizations

## RACE/ETHNICITY



## GENDER



# ASPEN INSTITUTE COLORADO CHILDREN & FAMILIES HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FELLOWSHIP

The Colorado Children and Families Health and Human Services Fellowship is a central part of the Aspen Institute's commitment to advancing opportunity and equality in the America.

Each Fellow commits to an 18-month Fellowship experience, highlighted by four convenings and an action plan to advance their vision to make Colorado the best place to have a child and sustain a healthy, thriving family.

## BUILDING ON A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

Since its founding in 1949, the Aspen Institute has invested in the world's leaders. The Aspen model is based on enduring values and providing a nonpartisan venue for addressing the critical issues of the day. The Institute:

- Cultivates leaders to tackle the great challenges of our times;
- Hosts 17 Fellowships spanning regions and issues;
- Includes global, entrepreneurial, business, education, and policy leadership programs; and
- Leverages the creativity, energy, and resources of strong leaders and networks.

## INCREASING IMPACT AND SPURRING ACTION

Building on the Institute's 50+ year history of investing in leadership, the Colorado Fellowship supports visionary leaders with entrepreneurial mindsets who can think across systems and issues. We seek cross-sector leaders who represent the rich diversity of the

state. And we seek leaders with bold solutions to further the economic security, educational success, and health and well-being of children and their families.

As a cohort, Fellows participate in four forums, interim check-ins and technical assistance, and an individual or collaborative action plan that furthers their existing work and goals. Specifically, the Fellowship:

### Invests in values-based, mission-driven leaders

- Explore values in leadership through text-based dialogue; and
- Leverage the Aspen Institute's wealth of leadership experience and resources.

### Amplifies big ideas and diverse voices

- Participate in signature Institute convenings, publications, and media platforms.

### Catalyzes change and innovation

- Build a high-trust, action-oriented network of social justice leaders to make a real difference in the lives of children and families; and
- Carry out action plans to spur new partnerships, scale approaches, and fuel creative strategies.

## IMPORTANT FELLOWSHIP DATES

- Forum I (Aspen, Colorado):  
May 23-26, 2017
- Forum II (Aspen, Colorado):  
October 3-6, 2017
- Forum III (location TBD):  
March 6-9, 2018
- Forum IV (Aspen, Colorado):  
September 25-28, 2018





**The Aspen Institute** is an educational and policy studies organization based in Washington, DC. Its mission is to foster leadership based on enduring values and to provide a nonpartisan venue for dealing with critical issues. The Institute has campuses in Aspen, Colorado, and on the Wye River on Maryland's Eastern Shore. It also maintains offices in New York City and has an international network of partners.

**Ascend at the Aspen Institute** is the national hub for breakthrough ideas and collaborations that move children and their parents toward educational success, economic security, and health and well-being. We embrace a commitment to racial equity and a gender lens

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<http://ascend.aspeninstitute.org>

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