

# STATE OF COLORADO

**EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS**

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## EXECUTIVE ORDER

### CREATION OF THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

Roy Romer  
Governor

WHEREAS, on an average day in Colorado:

81,130 families with children under the age of 18 are living in poverty;

58,480 low-income families with children under 18 live in inadequate, unaffordable housing;

475,000 adults are illiterate;

935,141 people are without health insurance, one-third of whom are under age 18;

194 crisis calls are made to shelters for victims of domestic violence;

123 youth are arrested;

20 children are abused or neglected;

31 adolescents drop out of school;

16 babies are born to teen mothers;

11 babies are born at low birthweight;

1 baby dies before his/her first birthday; and

WHEREAS, the vitality and productivity of Colorado depends on the strength and well-being of its families and on the appreciation of the unique role of children in our society; and

WHEREAS, the goal of Colorado's policy for families and children is to support, strengthen, and promote successful family functioning and to form strong partnerships between families and private and public systems; and

WHEREAS, Colorado's policy for families and children seeks to assure that policies and programs:

recognize the strength of family ties;

recognize the diversity of Colorado families;

support family stability and unity;

support family functioning;

treat families as partners when providing services; and

WHEREAS, family needs cut across organizational and public and private sector boundaries; and

WHEREAS, a system to support families must exist that includes intergovernmental cooperation and the community-based alliance of state and local governments and the private sector; and

WHEREAS, the State of Colorado has participated in a policy academy on families and children at risk sponsored by the Council of State Policy and Planning Agencies; and

WHEREAS, the policy academy on families and children developed a draft strategic plan for restructuring the way in which families and children at risk are served in Colorado; and


WHEREAS, the policy academy's strategic plan recommends the creation of a commission on families and children to coordinate the implementation of the strategic plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Roy Romer, Governor of Colorado, by virtue of the authority vested in me under the constitution and laws of Colorado, DO HEREBY ORDER THAT:

1. The Colorado Commission on Families and Children is created. The commission shall consist of a cabinet council on families and children and other members from the governmental and private sectors. All members shall be appointed by the Governor and shall serve at his pleasure. Members shall serve without compensation.
2. The cabinet council shall consist of the executive directors of the Colorado Department of Social Services, the Colorado Department of Institutions, the Colorado Department of Health, the Governor's Job Training Office, the Office of State Planning and Budgeting, and the Colorado Commissioners of Education and Higher Education.
3. The activities of the commission shall be supported and coordinated by the cabinet council. Annually the Governor shall appoint the chair of the cabinet council. The chair of the cabinet council also shall serve as co-chair of the commission on families and children.
4. The commission shall have the following duties:
  - a. Develop and maintain policy and procedures for the commission's operation.
  - b. Advise the Governor in the development of policies and positions on families and children.
  - c. Advise the Governor in the development of innovative applications of policies and positions on families and children.

- d. Establish a broad base of support for Colorado families and children.
  - e. Provide linkage and coordination between government and the private sector.
  - f. Review all current family and child related policies, statutes, rules, regulations, practices, procedures, and forms of agencies for consistency with the standards determined by Colorado's policy for families and children.
  - g. Evaluate the effectiveness of state departments in implementing Colorado's policy for families and children.
  - h. Recommend changes to the Governor to integrate and prioritize state planning and budgeting based on relevance to Colorado's policy for families and children.
  - i. Recommend changes to the Governor to establish accountability in state departments and programs based on key outcome indicators for families and children.
  - j. Recommend changes to the Governor to ensure that efforts to prevent problems begin as early as possible in order to maximize the benefits to society, its families and children.
  - k. Recommend changes to the Governor to establish local communities as the focus of service planning and delivery for families and children.
  - l. Recommend to the Governor a mechanism for ensuring the long term implementation of a coordinated, integrated, family-centered service delivery system that emphasizes prevention and early intervention.
5. The commission shall meet at times and in places designated by its co-chairs. The commission shall submit periodic reports of its activities to the Governor.

Given under my hand and the  
Executive Seal of the State of  
Colorado, this 4th day of  
October, 1990.

  
Roy Romer  
Governor

