

# Colorado Data Trust Update

The Colorado Data Trust is a multi-agency partnership which seeks to address the lack of information available to job seekers, students, workers, and education and training providers, as well as reducing the cost and time of complying with federal regulations for workforce reporting. The Data Trust has three main goals: 1) reducing barriers to ethical and responsible data sharing, 2) encouraging collaboration and data usage to better serve education and workforce pathways of Colorado residents, and 3) move towards more external data and resource sharing with both technical and nontechnical stakeholders. It is composed of a governance board, which is a decision-making body to ensure that trust agreements are being followed, and is composed of at least one representative of each Data Trust member. The Colorado Workforce Development Council (CWDC) acts as the trustee, taking the role of convening and facilitating, as they provide no user data sets. There are defined processes to join and use the data.

## 2022 Highlights

- **Data Integration Manager:** A data integration manager was hired as a lead for the coordination of the Data Trust and execution of projects. This role dedicates time to moving projects forward and seeking out new projects or meaningful connections.
- **Quality Credentials:** Much of the work done through the Data Trust this year focused on quality credentials and the desire to better define what exactly makes certain credentials more worthwhile. These discussions require data connections from K-12, higher education, and workforce. The Data Trust is a foundation toward a state longitudinal data system (SLDS), which will enhance connections and allow for more comprehensive analyses and projects.
- **Research Data Lake:** [RIPL](#) has deployed a research data lake in tandem with the Data Trust's governance framework.
- **Empowerment Score:** Built on information from the Data Trust, the [Empowerment Score website](#) went live and can now be used in data and analysis reporting.
- **Eligible Training Providers List:** Work continued within the Data Trust on the Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) with Credential Engine's Credential Transparency Descriptor Language (CTDL) to better understand the skills associated with trainings and move towards skills-based transcripts and hiring.
- **My Colorado Journey:** The Data Trust also continues to be a key element of data connection for the [My Colorado Journey](#) platform.

Looking forward, as we consider talent, we want to move beyond simple resumes and schools-based credentials. We want to consider all forms of learning, beyond traditional employment and curriculum. The Data Trust is meant to facilitate the data connections necessary to do this, and move towards an equitable skills and employment ecosystem through applied research and analysis.

For more information about the Data Trust, please contact Data Integration Manager Adam Kanter at [adam.kanter@state.co.us](mailto:adam.kanter@state.co.us) or visit the [CWDC website](#).