



COLORADO FISCAL
POLICY INSTITUTE

State of Working Colorado 2007
March 2008

Executive Summary

The 2001 recession was brief in duration, but devastating in its consequences for working Coloradans. In the wake of that economic downturn, Colorado has struggled to get back to pre-recession levels for employment, wages, family income, poverty rates, and more. In some areas, the state has recovered, while in others it very clearly has not.

More than five years after the recession and perhaps sitting on brink of another, this report shows that many of the same challenges persist:

Wages and family income are stagnate or declining. Economic hurdles are more prevalent among Hispanics and African-Americans than among whites. Poverty rates have not declined, child poverty has actually increased, and the number of uninsured continues to grow. Every day costs like housing, food, transportation, and child care also continue to increase sharply. And working families in Colorado find it more and more difficult to make ends meet.

There is no magic solution or silver bullet that can cure what ails working Colorado. Rather, to make the State of Working Colorado as strong as it can and should be, a comprehensive strategy must be employed that focuses on increasing wages and income, strengthening public structures and work supports, and reducing costs for low- and moderate-income families.

This effort will require the continued commitment and advocacy of hundreds of COFPI partners around Colorado.

We urge you to use this report as a resource and tool to show policymakers and legislators that even our biggest challenges can be resolved with leadership, vision, and, most importantly, action.