

New state advisor on aging to focus on needs of Colorado's increasing senior population

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DENVER — Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017 ô Gov. John Hickenlooper and Lt. Gov. Donna Lynne today announced that Colorado has received a grant from the [NextFifty Initiative](#) to fund a Senior Advisor on Aging position in the Governor's Office. This role will drive leadership on senior issues and focus on the coordination of key aging-related concerns like mobility, health care, housing and more.

“It's crucial that we keep care for our seniors a priority,” said Governor John Hickenlooper. “This advisor will advance the state's strategic action plan on aging and keep the concerns of older Coloradans at the forefront for this administration and beyond.”

The NextFifty Initiative supports up to \$450,000 to fund the position over the next three years. Second and third year funding is based on renewal agreements.

“This investment is a big step in the right direction when it comes to addressing the needs of the aging population in our state,” said Lieutenant Governor Donna Lynne. “Our goal is to make sure Colorado's seniors can continue pursuing their passions and contributing to their communities. I want to acknowledge the Colorado General Assembly that passed House Bill 15-1033 that created a Strategic Action Planning Group on Aging, who reported on a broad range of aging imperatives in November 2016.”

Projecting beyond 2015, the State Demography Office estimates Colorado will have more than 1.2 million residents aged 65 and over by 2030. With such dramatic growth expected, Colorado will need to better understand and plan effectively for the unique issues that come with a significantly larger senior population.

“We know that the road to address the changing age demographics in Colorado is largely shaped by policy,” says Marco Chayet, NextFifty Initiative Board Chair. “The Senior Advisor on Aging will help cut across the health care, housing, transportation and finance sectors and shape policy that will support the advancement and innovation of products and services for future generations.”

The key responsibilities for the Governor's Senior Advisor on Aging include:

- Acting as the central leader for planning, coordination and policy guidance on all issues related to the aging population, providing advice to the state's Legislative and Policy leadership and the Governor in this area;
- Advising and informing the Governor's Executive Council on Aging to ensure that State policies on aging reflect best practices for this cohort;
- Working across foundations, health care providers and private sector initiatives to address funding gaps to support high impact programs across the state;
- Coordinating with national policy leaders and funders to ensure that Colorado is adhering to best practices and implementing sound policy as it relates to aging.

A search for the Senior Advisor on Aging begins immediately.

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