



## NEWS RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT: Christine Romero, [cromero@worklifecolorado.org](mailto:cromero@worklifecolorado.org), 303.298.1625

### \$1M GRANT HELPS UPSKILL UNDEREMPLOYED FAMILIES

*W.K. Kellogg Foundation Funds Upskill Program To Help Low-Income Workers Progress*

DENVER – Jan. 17, 2017 – WorkLife Partnership is expanding to help low-income, underemployed workers develop professionally and access resources to improve the lives of their families. The growth is funded by a two-year grant of nearly \$1 million from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Mich.

WorkLife Partnership's new Upskill Program is the first of its kind in Colorado and will focus on increasing economic and educational opportunities for workers who receive government assistance. The new Upskill Program will include working with a handful of county governments and five family resource centers across Colorado with the aim to increase family engagement and job quality for these employees. Under the program, Upskill Coaches will provide quality competency-based coaching for underemployed workers and assistance for career pathway infrastructure for businesses.

"The Kellogg Foundation's partnership will go a long way to help low-income families improve their working lives and benefit their children," said Liddy Romero, WorkLife Partnership executive director and founder. "Thanks to the Kellogg Foundation, we will be able to help them increase engagement and create future opportunities for a better chance at economic independence."

With a need for future upward wage potential, WorkLife's new Upskill Program is a critical piece to help workers professionally develop and generate long-term opportunity.

Denver-based WorkLife Partnership, founded in 2009, is an innovative social enterprise, nonprofit that helps fill a business gap and addresses the growing need for services aimed at retention, engagement and upskill of workers. This new expansion will meet the increased business demand in Denver and across Colorado. The Upskill Program is based off the work of Aspen Institute's Upskill America Initiative. WorkLife Partnership will use its tools and guidance to provide Upskilling to underemployed parents in Denver and across Colorado.

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With the Kellogg Foundation’s funding, WorkLife Partnership will deliver the Upskill Program services through family resource centers, which already offer job placement and many other services. These locations are the Family Forward Resource Center and Focus Points Family Resource Center both in Denver, the Aurora Community Connections, Sister Carmen Community Center in Boulder/Longmont, and the Mountain Resource Center in Conifer and the mountain region.

“This grant from the Kellogg Foundation will do so much to help the families we serve,” said Lorye McLeod, chief executive officer of the Mountain Resource Center. “We offer robust services to help people realize their full potential, but there’s always more to do. The WorkLife Partnership Upskill Program will complement the services offered by family resource centers.”

In addition to its Upskill efforts, WorkLife Partnership has member companies that pay an annual fee to offer services to their employees. The nonprofit works directly with employees through its Navigators who help connect them with community resources to help with challenges and to create opportunities. The WorkLife Partnership Navigators help people navigate numerous resources with the aim of both improving their lives, on-the-job focus, and benefiting our member company.

*The W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF), founded in 1930 as an independent, private foundation by breakfast cereal pioneer, Will Keith Kellogg, is among the largest philanthropic foundations in the United States. Guided by the belief that all children should have an equal opportunity to thrive, WKKF works with communities to create conditions for vulnerable children so they can realize their full potential in school, work and life. The Kellogg Foundation is based in Battle Creek, Michigan, and works throughout the United States and internationally, as well as with sovereign tribes. Special emphasis is paid to priority places where there are high concentrations of poverty and where children face significant barriers to success. WKKF priority places in the U.S. are in Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico and New Orleans; and internationally, are in Mexico and Haiti. For more information, visit [www.wkkf.org](http://www.wkkf.org).*

*WorkLife Partnership, founded in 2009, is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) focused on helping employees get to work, stay at work, and thrive on the job. The Denver-based innovative social enterprise that helps fill a business gap and addresses the growing need for worker retention, upskilling and engagement. With a proven ROI, these service help stabilize families through the retained employment of parents. Helping people of all income levels, WorkLife Partnership enriches personal and professional lives while reducing costs for member companies. For more information, visit [www.worklifepartnership.org](http://www.worklifepartnership.org).*

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