

- The State paid for independent studies of the Colorado Works program conducted by The Lewin Group. The studies concluded:
- **The state values local control.**
- **Local control adds significant value.**
- **Diverse communities receive customized services.**
- **Collaborative partnerships have increased.**
- **Counties provide a broad range of services.**

Excerpts from the Lewin Group COLORADO WORKS Evaluations

The Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) contracted with The Lewin Group and its partners, the University of Colorado's Health Sciences Center, the Johns Hopkins University's Institute for Policy Studies, and Capital Research Corporation, to perform an in-depth study of the Colorado Works program from 2005 through 2009. The following excerpts are from these reports and strongly support the state supervised/county administered model in Colorado and the partnerships that have grown from this model.

“The Colorado Works program is characterized by three features: First, **Colorado devolved a significant amount of control to counties.** The state has long valued local control of programs and gives considerable autonomy and discretion to the 64 counties in the design and implementation of their Colorado Works programs. This level of county control is due, in large part, to the diversity within the state and ensures that local policies reflect the specific needs of residents. Counties also contribute financially to the program.

Second, **counties have established an extensive network of agencies and organizations that are involved in the delivery of services clients need.** The counties use this network to expand the range and quality of services available to participants.

THIRD, COUNTIES HAVE USED THE FLEXIBILITY ALLOWED UNDER TANF TO IMPLEMENT A NUMBER OF PROMISING INITIATIVES THAT SUPPORT THE BROADER PURPOSES OF TANF.”¹

“PRWORA legislation and the Colorado legislature, as well as the Colorado Department of Human Services, have created a climate conducive to county TANF programs collaborating with other agencies and organizations to provide a wide range of human services to TANF participants and their families...

The state also fostered locally-determined collaborative arrangements by emphasizing local flexibility and decision-making with regard to how Colorado Works programs operate in each county. As a result of this conducive climate and encouragement to coordinate, collaboration has flourished across the state n county TANF programs, involving many different partners and taking on many different and interesting forms.”²

¹ *The Lewin Group Colorado Works Program Evaluation: Annual Report September 22, 2006 Page 411034 -ES-2*

² *The Lewin Group Program Coordination and Collaboration in the Colorado Works Program; June 21, 2006 Page 409650-27*