



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## LiveWell Colorado Celebrates Champions of Health *Day at the Capitol shines light on communities and the need for improving access to healthy, affordable foods*

**DENVER, COLO. — Wednesday, March 9, 2016** —Joined by Governor John Hickenlooper and many state legislators, the 2016 LiveWell Colorado Day at the Capitol recognized champions of health and helped shine a light on the good work happening in communities to help ensure that all Coloradans have access to healthy, affordable food and opportunities for physical activity.

The LiveWell Colorado Day at the Capitol drew more than 90 Coloradans from across the state. This year's LiveWell Colorado Day at the Capitol theme was "Healthy Food Access: Growing Colorado's Health and Agricultural Economy." Legislators and attendees heard perspectives from communities across the state including the Greeley Farmers Market & SNAP It Up Program, the Pharmacy RX Program from LiveWell Montrose Olathe and how the City of Arvada municipal policy supports urban agriculture.

Governor John Hickenlooper briefed attendees at the LiveWell Colorado "Day at the Capitol" Program. "LiveWell has become a national model for collaboration between the private and public sector to advance health and wellness. And we are seeing demonstrated results in urban and rural communities across the state," said Governor Hickenlooper.

LiveWell Colorado and its local initiatives have reached more than a million Coloradans through its programs, including more than 22 locally lead coalitions, partnerships with municipal leaders in 42 cities and towns along with a school foodservice initiative in 90 school districts across the state. With 30 percent of Colorado communities currently lacking access to healthy food retail options and one in three Colorado kids living in neighborhoods without parks, community centers, or safe sidewalks, LiveWell and its partners are working closely together advance health equity.

The event also included an awards ceremony honoring the following legislators:

- Representative Dominick Moreno (D-32), 2016 LiveWell Legislative Excellence Award recipient
- Senator Larry Crowder (R-35), 2016 LiveWell Legislative Excellence Award recipient

"We're honored to have such incredible partners in the legislative realm, helping support access to healthy living," said Shepard Nevel, LiveWell Colorado Chief Executive Officer. "Representative Moreno is a tireless champion for increasing access to healthy food and health equity in his district. And Senator Crowder built a bipartisan coalition in support of advancing farm-to-school efforts in Colorado." added Nevel.

LiveWell Colorado also recognized Beverly Grant, Mo' Betta Greens as its 2016 LiveWell Colorado Community Impact Award winner. A resident of Northeast Denver, Grant hosts five separate Farmer's Markets throughout the city of Denver. "Beverly Grant's leadership and vision with the Mo' Betta Green Marketplaces has brought fresh, healthy foods to Denver communities with little access to fresh and affordable produce. From state and city-wide legislation to grassroots mobilization, Beverly is intricately involved in the healthy eating/active living (HEAL) movement in Denver," said Nevel.

Legislators also took part in a physical activity using stretchy bands and jump ropes during the floor session in the Legislative Chambers in recognition of the 2016 LiveWell Colorado Day at the Capitol.

***Photos available upon request.***

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*LiveWell Colorado inspires and advances policy, environmental and lifestyle changes that promote health through the prevention and reduction of obesity and other chronic conditions. Working in partnership with community health and advocacy initiatives across the state, LiveWell Colorado aims to provide every Coloradan with access to healthy foods and opportunities for physical activity in the places they live, work, learn and play. For more information, please visit [www.LiveWellColorado.org](http://www.LiveWellColorado.org).*