



# CONVERGE COVID-19 Working Groups

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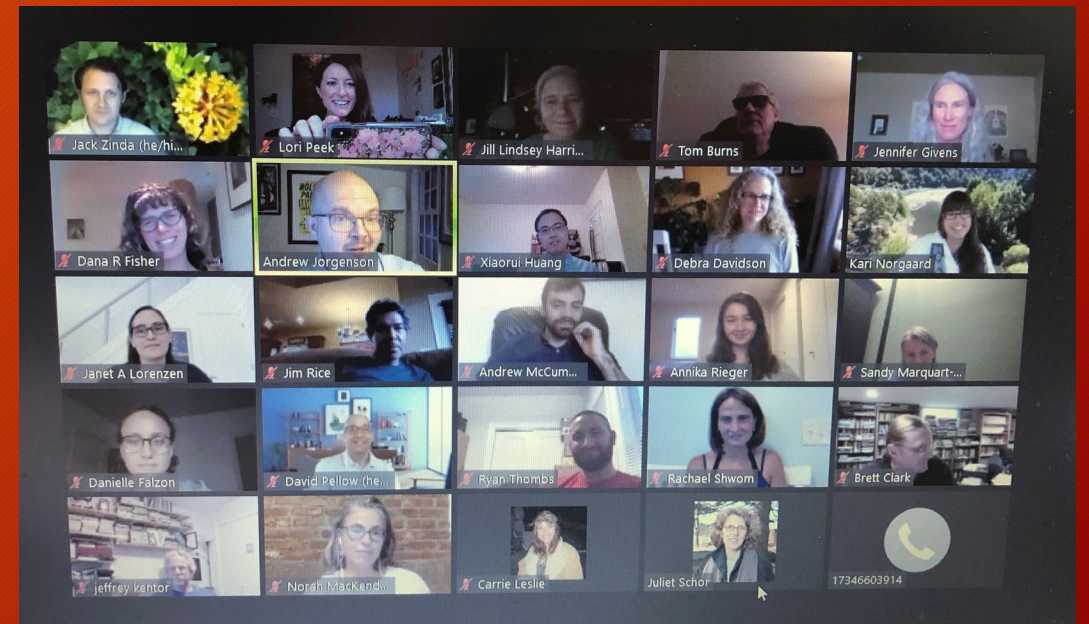
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University of Colorado Boulder



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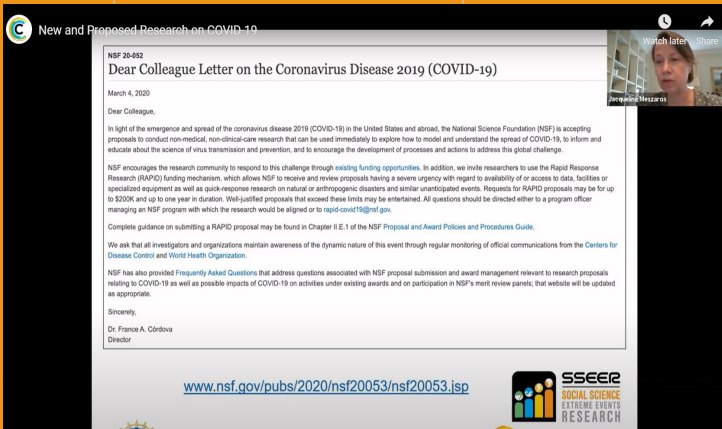















# Development of the COVID-19 Working Groups – A Few Key Dates in 2020

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
<p>📅 January 20, First Confirmed COVID-19 Case in the U.S.</p>		<p>📅 March 4, NSF Issues Dear Colleague Letter for COVID-19 Rapid Research</p> <p>📅 March 19, CONVERGE Virtual Forum: <i>New and Proposed Research on COVID-19</i></p> <div>  <p>A screenshot of the NSF website showing a "Dear Colleague Letter on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)" dated March 4, 2020. The letter discusses the NSF's acceptance of proposals for rapid response research on COVID-19. A video call window in the top right corner shows a participant named Josephine Hessele.</p> </div>		<p>60 minutes:</p> <p>3 NSF Program Directors</p> <p>17 presenters</p> <p>~450 Registrants</p>	

<https://converge.colorado.edu/communications/virtual-forum>

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 <b>January 20</b> , First Confirmed COVID-19 Case in the U.S.					
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 <b>April 3</b> , CONVERGE Virtual Forum: <i>COVID-19 Working Groups for Public Health and Social Sciences Research</i>					
 —  <b>April 4-13</b> , Application Window for COVID-19 Working Groups					
 <b>April 17</b> , COVID-19 Working Groups Announced					



# COVID-19 Working Groups – *Application Requirements*

- Have a **clear focus area**
- Led by **public health or social, behavioral, or economic sciences researcher**
  - Preference for SSEER members
- Have a **diverse team** to encourage **convergence research**
  - Minimum of 3 disciplines
  - Preference for groups with commitment to underrepresented groups, students
- **Identify status**
  - Formed and open, Formed and closed, In formation and recruiting
- **Budget and budget justification** for **\$1,000 award**





# Application Form

## GENERAL INFORMATION

FULL NAME

STREET ADDRESS

CITY

BIRTH DAY

EMAIL ADDRESS

HOME PHONE

CALL PHONE

OTHER PHONE

124 applications received

90 funded

# COVID-19 Working Groups

- Population Groups, Organizations, and Social Institutions
- Issues, Impacts, and Recovery
- Compound Hazards and Cascading Disasters
- Research Networks, Methods, and Ethics

The screenshot shows the CONVERGE website with a navigation bar including links for ABOUT, RESEARCH NETWORKS, RESOURCES, DATA, COMMUNICATIONS, and CONTACT. The main heading is "COVID-19 Working Groups for Public Health and Social Sciences Research". Below this, a paragraph explains that 90 COVID-19 Working Groups have been funded, each led by a public health researcher or a researcher in the social, behavioral, or economic sciences, and including researchers from at least three different disciplines. Another paragraph states that the funded Working Groups are organized according to four focal areas of study: 1) population groups, organizations, and social institutions; 2) issues, impacts, and recovery; 3) compound hazards and cascading disasters; and 4) research networks, methods, and ethics. Below the text are four image-based cards representing these focal areas: 1) "POPULATION GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS" with an image of a crowd; 2) "ISSUES, IMPACTS, AND RECOVERY" with a world map showing red dots; 3) "COMPOUND HAZARDS AND CASCADING DISASTERS" with an image of falling dominoes; and 4) "RESEARCH NETWORKS, METHODS, AND ETHICS" with an image of people brainstorming around a table with a "STRATEGY" diagram. The footer includes the University of Colorado Boulder logo and a URL bar showing the page address.

CONVERGE

ABOUT RESEARCH NETWORKS RESOURCES DATA COMMUNICATIONS CONTACT

## COVID-19 Working Groups for Public Health and Social Sciences Research

Due to the outpouring of interest from the research community and our mission to advance convergence research for the benefit of humanity, CONVERGE and the Social Science Extreme Events Research (SSEER) Network have funded 90 COVID-19 Working Groups for Public Health and Social Sciences Research. The Working Groups focus on a variety of issues and advancements in methods, ethics, and empirical topics related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Each group is led by a public health researcher or a researcher in the social, behavioral, or economic sciences, and includes researchers from at least three different disciplines to encourage convergent approaches.

The funded Working Groups are organized according to four focal areas of study: 1) population groups, organizations, and social institutions; 2) issues, impacts, and recovery; 3) compound hazards and cascading disasters; and 4) research networks, methods, and ethics. Many of the groups focus on cross-cutting issues. All groups submitted a Research Agenda Setting Paper which is available in the box below as well as on each Working Group's specific webpage.

POPULATION GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

ISSUES, IMPACTS, AND RECOVERY

COMPOUND HAZARDS AND CASCADING DISASTERS

RESEARCH NETWORKS, METHODS, AND ETHICS

University of Colorado Boulder

<https://converge.colorado.edu/resources/covid-19/working-groups/population-groups-organizations-social-institutions>

Instagram Twitter LinkedIn YouTube

<https://converge.colorado.edu/resources/covid-19/working-groups>



# COVID-19 Working Groups

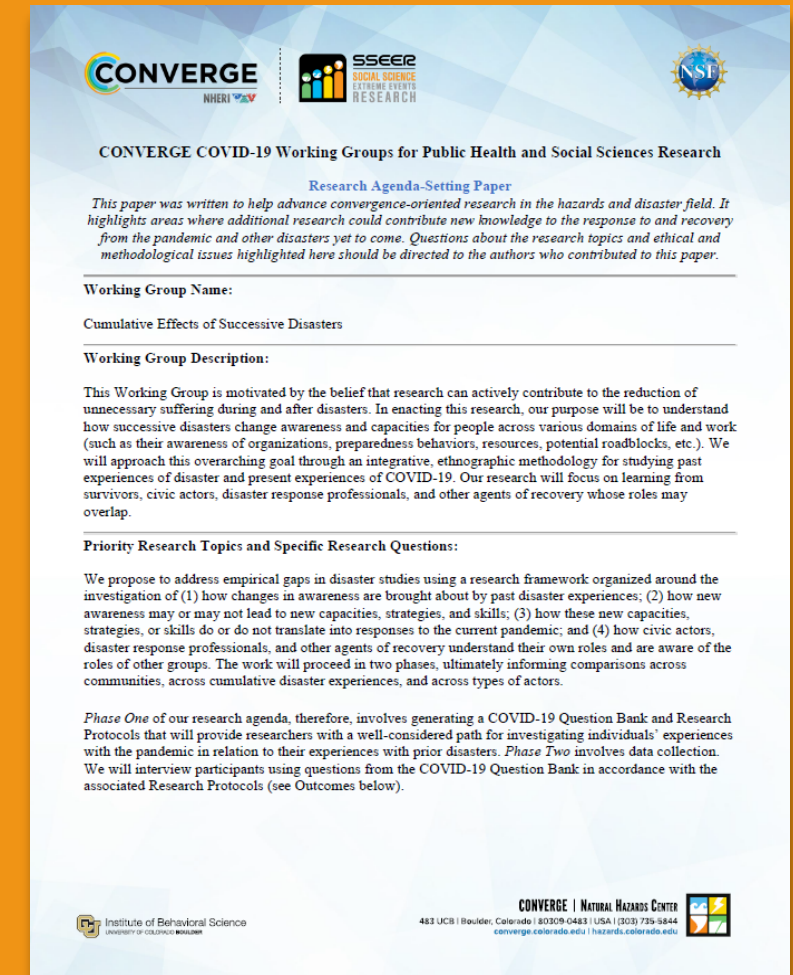


- There are **1,120 researchers** involved in the **90 COVID-19 Working Groups**.
  - **Size:** Groups range in size from **3 participants to 82 participants**. The average group has **11 members**.
  - **Affiliations:** Most with academic institutions, although representatives from local, state, and federal government, the private sector, and the non-profit sector are involved as well.
  - **Career Stage:** Working Group members range from undergraduate students to seasoned veterans.
  - **Disciplines:** Dozens of academic disciplines are represented, including public health and the social sciences, engineering, biomedical sciences, and beyond.
  - **Diversity:** About an equal number of men and women are involved as Working Group leads and members. Group leaders and members also include members of historically underrepresented groups including African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, Indigenous persons, and persons from developing countries.
  - **Geography:** Most (~70) of the leads are based at universities in the U.S.; other leads and members located throughout Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Oceania, and the rest of North America as well.



# COVID-19 Working Groups – *Group Requirement*

- Submit a research agenda setting paper by June 19, 2020



<https://converge.colorado.edu/resources/covid-19/working-groups/research-agendas>

# COVID-19 Working Groups









# First Generation Students and College Persistence During COVID-19 Working Group

## FACING COVID-19 AT HOME

An assessment of College Persistence for UNC-CH's First Generation College Students

Author:  
Cassandra R. Davis, PhD – The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Contributors:  
Harriet Hartman, PhD – Rowan University  
Dara Méndez, PhD – The University of Pittsburgh  
Jason Méndez, PhD – The University of Pittsburgh  
Terri Norton, PhD – Bucknell University  
Julie Sexton, PhD – The University of Colorado Boulder  
Milanika Turner, PhD – Florida A&M University

Fall 2020

**WUNC 91.5**  
NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC RADIO

91.5 Chapel Hill 88.9 Manteo  
90.9 Rocky Mount 91.1 Welcome  
91.9 Fayetteville 90.5 Buxton

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## How Is COVID-19 Hitting First Generation College Students?

By AMANDA MAGNUS & FRANK STASIO • AUG 28, 2020

PROGRAM  
The State of Things

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CREDIT: FLOU/CC

Nearly [one of five students](#) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill are the first in their families to attend college. Many first-generation students come from socioeconomically-disadvantaged families and have access to fewer resources and support than their peers. These students are also less likely to graduate — they drop out of college after three years at [more than twice the rate](#) of their peers whose



FIRST-GENERATION STUDENTS AND COLLEGE PERSISTENCE DURING COVID-19



# COVID-19 Survey Research Working Group

## COVID-19 Survey Research Working Group

In the context of the ongoing coronavirus crisis, an extraordinary number of research projects have been launched using survey, poll, and questionnaire-based methods. To help facilitate the sharing of lessons learned, discussion of common challenges, and distribution of results and opportunities, we are running an ongoing working group on survey research methods in COVID-19. Sessions are hosted every week and membership is open to anyone with interest or experience in these topics.

While we love hearing about results and findings, this group has a slightly different focus: we're honing in on the methodological core of survey research during COVID-19 and other emergencies/public health crises. The discussions focus on the very detailed, 'nerdy' aspects of questionnaire research (both qualitative and quantitative), including sampling, incentives, item design, instrument design, and data analysis. Our goal is to share promising practices, overcome obstacles and common challenges, and advance a practice-oriented understanding of high quality research

### How to Listen & Join

Meetings are held via Zoom and Youtube Live every Wednesday (Thursday in Australia/Asia) at 16:00 Eastern Standard Time ([click here for local time conversion](#)).

There are two ways to participate in the meetings: as a member of the working group or as a viewer.

#### Working Group Membership

Membership in the working group is open to anyone interested in the methodological dimensions of survey-based research in COVID-19 (or other emergency/public health contexts). Members receive email updates about upcoming presentations, research/funding opportunities, and agenda-setting questions about survey methods in emergency contexts. In exchange, we ask that members contribute their perspectives to these discussions and participate in the weekly sessions as regularly as possible. Members are also invited to participate in the live Zoom version of the meeting (i.e., audio and video sharing options, if desired), rather than just viewing the live broadcast via Youtube. To become a member, [please fill out this registration form](#).



COVID-19 SURVEY AND POLLING RESEARCH



# Evacuation and Sheltering of Vulnerable Populations in a Hurricane-Pandemic Working Group



EVACUATION AND SHELTERING OF  
VULNERABLE POPULATIONS IN A HURRICANE-  
PANDEMIC

## Workshop #1: Vulnerable Populations & Planning Considerations for the 2020 Hurricane Season

After-Action Report (AAR)  
May-June 2020

Prepared by:  
University of South Florida  
Old Dominion University

10 June 2020

## Workshop #2: Health and Infection Control Measures during the 2020 Hurricane Season

After-Action Report (AAR)  
May-June 2020

Prepared by:  
University of South Florida  
Old Dominion University

10 June 2020

## Workshop #3: Transportation and Sheltering Logistics during the 2020 Hurricane Season

After-Action Report (AAR)  
May-June 2020

Prepared by:  
University of South Florida  
Old Dominion University

20 June 2020

## Workshop #4: Public Messaging: Risk Communication for Disaster Preparedness, Evacuation, and Sheltering

After-Action Report (AAR)  
May-June 2020

Prepared by:  
University of South Florida  
Old Dominion University

18 June 2020

## Workshop #5: Workforce: Evacuations, Shelter Staffing, Workforce Structure, Capacity, PPE, and Telemedicine

After-Action Report (AAR)  
May-June 2020

Prepared by:  
University of South Florida  
Old Dominion University

24 June 2020

## Workshop #6: Psychological Adjustment for the 2020 Hurricane Season during COVID-19 Pandemic

After-Action Report (AAR)  
May-June 2020




Prepared by:  
University of South Florida  
Old Dominion University

26 June 2020



# Readying Populations for the COVID-19 Vaccine Working Group

READYING POPULATIONS FOR THE COVID-19 VACCINE



CONVERGE COVID-19 Working Groups for Public Health and Social Sciences Research

*Research Agenda-Setting Paper*

*This paper was written to help advance convergence-oriented research in the hazards and disaster field. It highlights areas where additional research could contribute new knowledge to the response to and recovery from the pandemic and other disasters yet to come. Questions about the research topics and ethical and methodological issues highlighted here should be directed to the authors who contributed to this paper.*

**Working Group Name:**

Readying Populations for the COVID-19 Vaccine

**Working Group Description:**

COVID-19 vaccination promises the opportunity to create individual and population-level immunity and to resume social and economic activity without excess disease. Yet, all segments of the public may not accept a vaccine, uneven access to the vaccine could amplify social and economic disparities, and society could become further polarized as mask and physical distancing opposition converges with anti-vaccine sentiments distrustful of public health, government, and pharmaceutical companies. Because of the lag time in vaccine availability, however, the U.S. has an opportunity to foresee and study such challenges, and to develop evidence-informed policies and practices that enhance public understanding of, access to, and acceptance of a COVID-19 vaccine.

This Working Group developed an agenda to guide the aggregation, generation, and translation of known and novel research about social, behavioral, and communication challenges associated with the COVID-19 vaccine. These efforts are helping to build an evidence base with which better to plan and execute a vaccination campaign in the U.S.


**Priority Research Topics and Specific Research Questions:**

Converge COVID-19 vaccines will become available amidst known trends and uncertain developments including:

- A protracted, lethal, and disruptive pandemic has heightened a vaccination's perceived value.
- Understandings of COVID-19 virology and immunology (e.g., mutations, community immunity levels) are still evolving.
- Key vaccine attributes are not yet known (e.g., platform, immunogenicity, duration of immunity).
- Pressures to make a vaccine widely available on an accelerated basis may challenge previous beliefs about how fast is too fast for adequate safety and effectiveness.
- Urgent deployment of vaccines, determined to be safe and effective yet still classified as "investigational," will require Emergency Use Authorization by the FDA, generating a complex communication environment.
- Manufacturing and distribution constraints with high vaccine demand will necessitate allocation decisions.

CONVERGE | Noma Hazen Center


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converge@converge.edu | noma@converge.edu



## The Public's Role in COVID-19 Vaccination: Planning Recommendations Informed by Design Thinking and the Social, Behavioral, and Communication Sciences


Working Group on Readying Populations for COVID-19 Vaccine

July 2020



JOHNS HOPKINS  
BLOOMBERG SCHOOL  
of PUBLIC HEALTH

Center for Health Security



TEXAS STATE  
ANTHROPOLOGY

Health Security  
Volume 18, Number 4, 2020 © Mary Ann Liebert, Inc.  
DOI: 10.1089/hs.2020.0106

COMMENTARY

### A SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH AGENDA TO FACILITATE COVID-19 VACCINE UPTAKE IN THE UNITED STATES

Emily K. Brunson and Monica Schoch-Spana, on behalf of the Working Group on Readying Populations for COVID-19 Vaccine

**Keywords:** COVID-19, Vaccine uptake, Vaccine confidence, Community engagement, Epidemic management response

**SINCE ITS FIRST APPEARANCE** in the United States in February 2020, novel severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) has infected over 3.7 million and killed over 140,000 people in the United States (as of July 20, 2020). Responses to the virus, including closing venues where person-to-person spread was likely (e.g., schools, churches, businesses) and requiring the use of masks and physical distancing measures where person-to-person contact could not be avoided, reduced the spread of SARS-CoV-2. At the same time, these protective actions have also radically transformed social life and operational national and household economies.<sup>1,2</sup> As the health crisis continues and pandemic fatigue sets in to alter local, political, health, and fiscal, and the general public are universally searching for solutions.

One of the most promising solutions to vaccines—if they can be successfully developed and deployed—that could provide individual- and population-level immunity and, thus, the conditions for resolute social and economic activities to resume. To facilitate the development and dissemination of such medical countermeasures, the U.S. government has committed over \$10 billion for Operation Warp Speed—a public-private partnership involving several government agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Department of Defense.<sup>3</sup> Operation Warp


Speed aims to deliver 300 million doses of a safe, effective vaccine by January 2021.<sup>4</sup> This timeline is likely overly optimistic. Vaccine development, especially against a pathogen for which no vaccine currently exists, as is the case with coronavirus, typically takes 10 to 15 years.<sup>5</sup> Progress is being made, however. As of May 15, 2020, 14 promising vaccine candidates were in development.<sup>6</sup>

Despite this promising technological output, Operation Warp Speed nonetheless manifests a key social gap. The program rests upon the compelling yet unfounded assumption that “if we build it, they will come.” Past vaccination experience in routine and crisis contexts demonstrates that not all segments of the public may accept a vaccine due to concerns about safety. Unseen access to vaccines could also amplify social and economic disparities as well as feelings of racial bias. And antimisinformation (anti-vax) sentiment could be exacerbated if mask and physical distancing opposition converges with the rising vaccine movements, further eroding trust in public health and government.

Under these conditions, what can be done to clear the path for the technical applied and the social demand for SARS-CoV-2 (coronavirus disease 2019 [COVID-19]) vaccines? With the lag time in vaccine availability, U.S. vaccination planners and implementers can maximize benefits and take protective steps now to maximize potential

Emily K. Brunson, PhD, is Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX. Monica Schoch-Spana, PhD, is Senior Scholar and Senior Scientist, Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, Baltimore, MD.

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CommuniVax

A Coalition to Strengthen the Community's Role in an Equitable COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign

## CommuniVax: A Coalition to Strengthen the Community's Involvement in an Equitable Vaccination Rollout

CommuniVax is a national alliance of social scientists, public health experts, and community advocates who seek lasting solutions to a serious problem: in the United States, historically underserved Black, Indigenous, and Latino populations have endured negative health and economic impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic at tragic and disproportionate rates. While these communities could benefit greatly from safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, longstanding biases and barriers hinder their access to and acceptance of vaccination.

**Who to contact:**

**Technical inquiries**  
[Monica Schoch-Spana, PhD](#)  
[Emily K. Brunson, PhD, MPH](#)

**Media requests**  
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Director of Communications  
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**More**

CommuniVax builds off work completed by

\$2 million grant from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative's (CZI) Science and Society Group

# Enabling Conditions

- A generous, educated, motivated, dedicated hazards and disaster research workforce
- NSF support for CONVERGE and federal agency support for the Natural Hazards Center which has helped to create a *social infrastructure* for convening and allows for *rapid funding* for research
- Interested media, publishers, and others looking to share knowledge generated by the groups
- Funders motivated to support and advance science and outreach efforts





Please sign up for updates and information for the  
Natural Hazards Center and CONVERGE:



[hazards.colorado.edu/signup](https://hazards.colorado.edu/signup)  
[converge.colorado.edu/signup](https://converge.colorado.edu/signup)



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