



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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\$8.6 MILLION COLORADO TRUST INITIATIVE TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

Denver, CO – With limited federal resources, and state and local public health budgets continuing to decline, many providers in Colorado’s public health system are increasingly struggling to provide essential health services. A strong public health system can protect Colorado from emerging health threats by helping to identify and monitor disease outbreaks, promoting healthy behaviors, and improving mental health care and substance abuse treatment. A new \$8.6 million, five-and-a-half-year Colorado Trust grant seeks to significantly strengthen community health providers’ ability to better deliver these services.

“In addition to the burden of shrinking budgets, local public health departments across Colorado also are suffering from isolation. Our decentralized system leaves many providers, especially those in rural parts of the state, without much-needed support,” said John R. Moran, Jr., President and CEO of The Colorado Trust. “Local public health departments and other community-based organizations need to develop partnerships and connections that enable them to do more locally to publicize and provide essential health care services.”

The Trust’s new Partnerships for Health Initiative is designed to help meet this need by convening partnerships, made up of governmental agencies, non-governmental health organizations and other private and community-based organizations, such as businesses, schools, churches and nonprofit organizations. These partnerships will work to inform, educate and empower people within communities about health issues. Partnerships will also work together to identify and solve health problems, and develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts.

Through a competitive process, 14 community partnerships have been selected to begin the work of this long-term initiative. Combined initial planning grants for the partnerships, followed by two-and-one-half year implementation grants, will average \$75,000 per year for each grantee. Grantees will be eligible for a second cycle of funding beginning in 2009 and extending through 2011. Each of the following grantee partnerships has identified a Healthy People 2010 focus area important to its community as a starting point for its efforts:

1. Centennial Area Health Education Center (*serving Cheyenne, Kit Carson and Lincoln counties*)
Healthy People 2010 (HP2010) focus: community-based prevention

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2. Chaffee County Department of Health and Human Services (*servicing Chaffee County*)
HP2010 focus: health access
3. Crowley County (*servicing Crowley County*)
HP2010 focus: substance abuse
4. Gunnison County Public Health (*servicing Delta, Gunnison, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel counties*)
HP2010 focus: public health infrastructure
5. Lutheran Hospital Association/San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center (*servicing the San Luis Valley – Creede and South Fork, and Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Rio Grande and Saguache counties*)
HP2010 focus: health access
6. Mesa County Health Department (*servicing Mesa County*)
HP2010 focus: indoor environmental health
7. Metro Community Provider Network (*servicing Adams, Arapahoe, Douglas and Jefferson counties*)
HP2010 focus: health access
8. Northwest Colorado Visiting Nurse Association (*servicing Jackson, Moffat, Rio Blanco and Routt counties*)
HP2010 focus: health access
9. San Juan Basin Health Department (*servicing La Plata County*)
HP2010 focus: methamphetamine abuse
10. Southern Ute Community Action Programs (*servicing La Plata County*)
HP2010 focus: mental health
11. Spanish Peaks Regional Health Center/Southeast AHEC (*servicing Huerfano and Las Animas counties*)
HP2010 focus: health access
12. Tri-County Health Department (*servicing Adams and Arapahoe counties*)
HP2010 focus: senior injury prevention
13. University of Colorado Health Sciences Department of Psychiatry (*servicing Metro Denver*)
HP2010 focus: child and maternal health
14. UCHSC/WONDER Babies (*servicing Colorado statewide*)
HP2010 focus: health access

An independent evaluation of this initiative is being conducted by TriWest Group of Boulder. The purpose of the evaluation is to examine the process of building community partnerships and to identify factors that lead to increased coordinated health and improved Healthy People 2010 outcomes over the life of the initiative and beyond.

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The Colorado Trust is a grantmaking foundation dedicated to advancing the health and well-being of the people of Colorado. Visit www.coloradotruster.org to learn more about The Colorado Trust and its grantmaking initiatives. *Please note:* “The” in The Colorado Trust name is part of the foundation’s name. Please do not drop or lowercase the T.