



NEWS STATEMENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 30, 2009

Statement attributable to:
Polly Anderson, Policy Director
Colorado Community Health Network

CCHN Response to Colorado Health Centers Receive \$7.5M in Stimulus Funding

The March 27 announcement that Colorado Community Health Centers will be receiving \$7.5 million in stimulus funding comes as welcome news for Colorado's vital primary health care providers, said Polly Anderson, Policy Director at the Colorado Community Health Network. However, according to Anderson, the funding will not put an end to the challenges facing Colorado's 15 Community Health Centers. The funding announcement was made by Mary Wakefield, head of the Health Resources and Services Administration on Friday in Washington, DC.

The vital role of Community Health Centers in our nation's health care system and economy was recognized with the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The stimulus funding will help create or protect more than 150 Colorado jobs and provide access to nearly 40,000 new patients, more than 21,000 of whom are uninsured.

Colorado Health Centers are facing their own financial challenges just as demand for services is increasing as low and middle income Coloradans lose their jobs and health insurance. The federal stimulus funding will help Health Centers meet the challenge, but it is essential that state funding hold steady during this time.

Colorado Health Centers will likely lose access to \$2.7 million in state grants in the upcoming state fiscal year due to proposed budget cuts. Other options to balance the state budget under discussion at the Colorado General Assembly could also hurt Health Centers at the same time that patient demand is increasing.

The federal funds are temporary and intended to help offset costs associated with increased demand. They are no substitute for ongoing state support.

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For a complete list of awards by state, visit <http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/programs/hrsa/idsgawards.html>. The HRSA press release is on the next page.

To interview Ms. Anderson, please contact Maureen Maxwell at 303.861.5165 x259, cell 303.913.9078 or maureen@cchn.org.

The Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) is the collective voice for Colorado's 15 Community Health Centers (CHCs) and their patients. CHCs provide a health care home to more than 500,000 of their community members - one in 10 people in Colorado - from 54 of the state's 64 counties. Without CHCs, hundreds of thousands of Colorado's low-income families and individuals would have no regular source of health care. CCHN's mission is to increase access to high quality health care for people in need in Colorado. For more information about CCHN, please visit www.cchn.org.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: HHS Press Office
(202) 690-6343

**\$338 Million to Expand Community Health Centers, Serve More Patients
Grants Will Support Centers That Care for the Uninsured, Support Up to 6,400 Jobs**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) today announced the release of \$338 million to expand services offered at the nation's community health centers. The money was made available by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and comes as more Americans join the ranks of the uninsured.

"More Americans are losing their health insurance and turning to health centers for care," said Health Resources and Services Administrator (HRSA) Mary Wakefield, Ph.D., R.N. "These grants will aid centers in their efforts to provide care to an increasing number of patients during the economic downturn."

The grants -- titled Increased Demand for Services (IDS) grants -- will be distributed to 1,128 federally qualified health center grantees. Health centers will use the funds over the next two years to create or retain approximately 6,400 health center jobs.

Grantees submitted plans explaining how the IDS funds would be used. Strategies to expand services may include, but are not limited to, adding new providers, expanding hours of operations or expanding services. The funds will provide care to an additional 2.1 million patients over the next two years, including approximately 1 million uninsured people.

Health centers deliver preventive and primary care services to patients regardless of their ability to pay; charges for services are set according to income. Health centers served more than 16 million patients in 2007, about 40 percent of whom had no health insurance.

The IDS awards are the second set of health center grants provided through the Recovery Act. On March 2, President Obama announced grants worth \$155 million to establish 126 new health centers. Those grants will provide access to health center care for 750,000 people in 39 states and two territories.

To see a list of grantees by state, go to www.hhs.gov/recovery/programs/hrsa/idsgawards.html. To find a health center near you or to learn more about health centers, visit www.bphc.hrsa.gov/.

The activities described in this release are being funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). To track the progress of HHS activities funded through the ARRA, visit www.hhs.gov/recovery. To track all federal funds provided through the ARRA, visit www.recovery.gov.

The Health Resources and Services Administration is part of the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. HRSA is the primary federal agency responsible for improving access to health care services for people who are uninsured, isolated, or medically vulnerable. For more information about HRSA and its programs, visit www.hrsa.gov.

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