



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Federal Grants to Provide New Health Care Access For 15,200 People in Colorado**

DENVER—By 2015, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) expands health insurance coverage for 32 million more Americans. They'll need places to go to get the care they need; affordable, timely health care in the appropriate place.

On Oct. 8, 2010, the US Department of Health and Human Services announced Capital Development grants to 143 Community Health Centers (CHCs) across the country to address pressing construction and renovation needs and expand access to quality health care. Through the PPACA, Congress has directed the investment of \$11 billion over five years in Community Health Centers nationally to

- Help meet the health care needs of the uninsured now,
- Provide access to the millions of individuals that will gain coverage under the Medicaid expansions and state health insurance exchanges beginning in 2014, and
- Continue to care for the 20 million individuals that are expected to remain uninsured after health care reform.

These funds will nearly double the number of patients seen in CHCs because the CHC health care home model provides proven accessible, high quality care to patients regardless of the ability to pay.

Three Colorado Community Health Centers received Capital Development grants. They are:

Clinica Family Health Services, Inc.: \$3,785,700 to expand the Thornton facility, including adding 11 medical exam rooms, three dental operatories, and two multiuse group visit rooms. This will allow Clinica to provide care to an additional 3,400 patients, up from the 8,000 patients seen at the Thornton site in 2009.

Metro Community Provider Network (MCPN), Inc.: \$10,247,940 to build a new facility in Jefferson County to replace the current Jeffco facility. Jeffco Clinic in Lakewood cared for 5,000 patients in 2009; the new facility to be called Jefferson County Family Health Center is expected to care for an additional 10,000. The Colorado Health Foundation awarded \$3 million to MCPN to purchase the land for the new clinic. Nearly 11 percent of Colorado's population lives in Jefferson County, with approximately 37 percent earning below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level.

Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc.: \$4,863,000 to replace two established primary care facilities to address significant and pressing capital improvement needs through modernization, renovation and construction. Valley-Wide will build a larger medical office building in La Junta to meet growing community needs, and will renovate a recently purchased building in Monte Vista to replace the current Rio Grande Medical Center. The Colorado Health Foundation awarded \$1.6 million in matching dollars to Valley-Wide to support these efforts. These grants will increase Valley-Wide's capacity to care for an additional 1,300 patients in La Junta and 500 at the Rio

Grande Medical Center. Caring for Colorado and Colorado Department of Local Affairs provided grants to help complete the funding for the Rio Grande Medical Center project.

“Colorado Health Centers intend to leverage the unprecedented federal investments under PPACA to double the capacity of the Health Center system in our state from the 500,000 served now to 1,000,000 Coloradans,” said Ross Brooks, chief operations officer of CCHN. “This initial investment of PPACA dollars is a great start to expanding our state’s primary care infrastructure.

“CHCs are part of the footprint that health care reform funding is supporting for the model of care of the future,” explained Dr. Ricardo Velasquez, interim president and CEO of Valley-Wide. “While this is good news, and it supports community economics with construction and health care jobs, it brings on additional responsibilities for Health Centers to continue to develop effective patient-centered medical home care that is integrated, coordinated and high quality.”

“From census data and information we receive from county social services, tens of thousands of people in our three-county area cannot get the basic health care they need,” said President and CEO of Clinica Family Health Services Pete Leibig. “This means that they are relying on hospital emergency departments or are going without care and suffering needlessly.”

“MCPN is extremely grateful for our grant award provided through the PPACA for capital development of our Jefferson County Family Health Services campus,” said Dave Myers, president and CEO of MCPN. “The federal grant and the grant from The Colorado Health Foundation will enable us to build a much-needed new facility without having to take on debt, as is often necessary with capital projects such as this. This means that future funding can remain focused on direct patient care.”

The grants cover specific construction projects in medically underserved areas. The funding does not cover the continued cost of providing health care and hiring staff. Reimbursement from state programs that cover health care for Coloradans such as Medicaid, Child Health Plan Plus, and the Colorado Indigent Care Program; donations from foundations and private funding; patient copayments for services; and federal funding to cover the cost of care provided to the uninsured will continue to be essential.

“We are so pleased for the federal grants these high-performing organizations received, and we’re proud to support them in the important work they do,” said Foundation Vice President of Philanthropy Kelly Dunkin. “Coloradans will benefit for years to come from the far-sightedness of these clinics.” The Colorado Health Foundation works to ensure that low-income, uninsured and under-insured Coloradans have access to high-quality, cost-effective care.

Colorado’s 15 Community Health Centers are working on a plan, called Access for All Colorado, to provide a health care home for one million Coloradans.

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To interview Mr. Brooks, please contact Maureen Maxwell at (303) 861-5165, Ext. 259, cell (303)913-9078, or [maureen@cchn.org](mailto:maureen@cchn.org).

To interview or visit any of these sites, please contact:

- [Clinica](#): Susan Wortman office (303-665-3036, ext. 164; Cell: (720) 341-3849
- [MCPN](#): John Reid office (303) 761-1977 ext. 1124; Cell: (720) 338-1148
- [Valley-Wide](#): Jackie Scheidegger or Christine Hettinger-Hunt (719) 589-5161

To interview Kelly Dunkin at [The Colorado Health Foundation](#), please contact Suzanne Beranek at (303) 953-3668, cell: (303) 809-1380 or [sberanek@coloradohealth.org](mailto:sberanek@coloradohealth.org).

To read the HHS news release and list of grantees, please click [here](#).

*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 58 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](http://www.cchn.org).*

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