



NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 6, 2007

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Almost a Quarter Billion Dollars to Colorado Economy *Community Health Centers Bring Health and Economic Benefits*

DENVER— Colorado's Community Health Centers are a bright spot in the health care picture, providing high-quality care while managing costs and contributing almost a quarter of a billion dollars to Colorado's economy. The analysis released today by the Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN), examines the economic impact of direct employment and additional jobs created in community businesses and industries due to the presence of Community Health Centers in Colorado.

"Community Health Centers employ more than 2,800 Coloradans in high-need communities across Colorado, and they live and work and shop in those communities," explained Annette Kowal, chief executive officer of CCHN. "With Health Center in communities, it's more than just healthy communities – we've discovered that economies are healthier, too."

"Community Health Centers provide high quality care to some of Colorado's most vulnerable populations and they do so cost effectively. As we think about health reform we need to look for high value systems already in place and the Community Health Centers are certainly one model to look to and learn from," said Colorado Governor Bill Ritter, who joined CCHN in announcing the analysis results.

The analysis revealed that CHCs directly employ the equivalent of 2,789 full time employees. An additional 2,753 jobs are created in other businesses and industries in communities where there are CHCs. These include people who supply medical equipment, maintenance services, and clean linens to CHCs; and provide food and uniforms for CHC employees.

The economic impact of direct employment and additional dollars of income generated by CHCs ranges from \$630,247 in the central mountain region to \$47,037,006 in Denver. This benefit is in addition to the cost-effective primary and preventive care provided to nearly 400,000 Coloradans from more than 50 counties. CHCs collectively serve one-third of all low-income uninsured, one-third of all Medicaid patients, and one-third of all Child Health Plan Plus (CHP+) patients in Colorado.

"This week is National Health Center Week, when we celebrate the contribution to Colorado's health by Community Health Centers and the people who work there. Now we can celebrate their contribution to Colorado's economic health, too," said Kowal.

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To view the entire report, please go to www.cchn.org. To interview Ms. Kowal, please contact Maureen Maxwell at (303) 861-5165, Ext. 259, cell (303)913-9078, or maureen@cchn.org.

The Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2007. CCHN is Colorado's Primary Care Association, representing 14 non-profit Community Health Centers (CHCs) operating 118 sites across the state. CHCs provide comprehensive primary health care in community, migrant, homeless, and school-based health centers to one in twelve Coloradans. 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.