



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**\$20 Million Grant will Deliver Health Care to Thousands of Uninsured Coloradans**

DENVER— The Colorado Health Foundation (TCHF) and Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) will partner in a collaboration to increase access to primary and preventive health care for up to 400,000 more people in Colorado. TCHF is providing \$20 million in grants to be distributed among Colorado's 15 Community Health Centers to support clinics as they seek to secure, or have already secured, federal economic recovery grants for their highest impact, highest priority projects. This will be a significant investment in CCHN's Access for All Colorado plan, which will provide a health care home (also called a medical home) to more than one million low-income uninsured and medically-underserved Coloradans over the next 20 years.

"The current stagnant economy is increasing the demand for health services on Colorado's nonprofit organizations," said Anne Warhover, president and CEO of the Colorado Health Foundation. "We're fortunate to have a strong partnership with CCHN that allows us to continue providing critically-needed health services to thousands of Coloradans, through a project that will help us attain our vision that, together, we'll make Colorado the healthiest state in the nation."

"On behalf of Colorado Community Health Centers (CHCs), I am honored that the Colorado Health Foundation has made a \$20 million down payment on launching Access for All Colorado," said Annette Kowal, Chief Executive Officer of the Colorado Community Health Network. "Today, Colorado CHCs provide integrated primary health care services and a health care home to more than 500,000 Coloradans. Access for All Colorado (AAC) is the Colorado CHCs' progressive plan to double the number of people in Colorado over the next 20 years who are able to meet their primary health care needs because they have access to a Community Health Center."

"The Foundation's \$20 million investment will help maximize the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) investment in Colorado CHCs. TCHF's Board of Directors is explicitly targeting the \$20 million to support CHC growth projects that are also receiving federal ARRA funds, in an effort to rapidly grow the Colorado CHC system," explained Kowal. "These dollars will go toward operations funding and capital expansions, helping CHCs care for more people in their communities."

"In the constantly changing landscape of health care, supporting CHCs and other safety net providers is the right strategy. CHCs focus on primary health care, CHCs are effective in serving vulnerable individuals and families, and CHCs are proven to deliver both high quality health care and cost effectiveness," said Kowal.

The individual grants given by TCHF from this investment will be tailored to maximize the effectiveness for the federal stimulus dollars that are going to health centers. The U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration is expected to announce the distribution of grants from the Facility Investment Program (FIP), funded by ARRA, in the fall of 2009. FIP grants are intended to be used for one-time facility improvement to address significant and pressing capital improvement needs at CHCs, including construction and renovation.

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*To interview Ms. Kowal, please contact Maureen Maxwell at (303) 861-5165, Ext. 259, cell (303)913-9078, or [maureen@cchn.org](mailto:maureen@cchn.org). For more information about Access for All Colorado, please visit [www.cchn.org](http://www.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 55 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).*

*The Colorado Health Foundation works to make Colorado the healthiest state in the nation by increasing the number of Coloradans with health insurance, ensuring they have access to quality, coordinated care and encouraging healthy living. The Foundation invests in the community through grants and initiatives to health-related nonprofits that focus on these goals, as well as operating medical education programs to increase the health care workforce. The Foundation's assets of more than \$900 million include an investment portfolio as well as an ownership interest in Denver's HealthONE hospital system. For more information, please visit [www.ColoradoHealth.org](http://www.ColoradoHealth.org).*

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