

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 30, 2011

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Rep. Diana DeGette Honored with NACHC “Defender Award”
National Award Honors Colorado Lawmaker for Leadership in Health Care

DENVER— U. S. Rep. Diana DeGette (D-Colo.) has won the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) “2011 Community Health Defender Award” for her outstanding leadership in expanding health care access for uninsured and medically underserved Americans. The award is given each year to members of Congress who have worked to successfully increase the number of Community Health Centers around the country that provide quality primary health care to medically uninsured and underserved people.

Rep. DeGette was presented the award this morning at a ceremony held at La Casa/Quigg Newton Family Health Center in Denver. Dr. Paul Melinkovich, director of Denver Community Health Services, presented the award, joined by representatives of the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless and Metro Community Provider Network, both with Community Health Center facilities in Colorado Congressional District 1.

“We are pleased to honor Representative DeGette for her strong support of community health centers here in Colorado and throughout our nation,” said Dr. Melinkovich. “For many individuals, Community Health Centers are their only source of health care, and through our network of community and school-based Health Centers, we at Denver Health served more than 117,000 patients in 2010, bringing health care to the neighborhoods in which they live.”

La Casa/Quigg Newton Family Health Center is one of Denver Health’s Community Health Services facilities. In a collaborative program that started in 1993, the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless provides medical and mental health services at La Casa/Quigg Newton to the residents of the Quigg Newton housing development and the surrounding Sunnyside neighborhood.

Fifteen Community Health Centers operate 131 clinic sites across Colorado, providing a health care home to more than 500,000 of their community members – one in ten people in the state.

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For more information and a photo of the award ceremony, please contact Maureen Maxwell at (303) 867-9530, cell: (303)913-9078, or maureen@cchn.org.

The Colorado Community Health Network (CCHN) is the unified 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 57 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.

To learn more about careers at Community Health Centers, please visit www.missiondrivencareers.org.