

Colorado Rural Mobile Health Project Project Update

Name of Applicant:	San Juan Basin Health Department <i>Durango, La Plata County</i>
Organization and Project <p>The SJBHD was organized in 1948 and has grown with the community to offer 72 public health programs organized in four divisions. Emphasis is on the prevention of disease and disability, promotion of health lifestyle choices, preservation and enhancement of the environment, and assurance of access to basic health services for all. The personal services that are provided are generally for low-income population.</p> <p>The South West Smile Makers Program (SWSMP) provides preventive and restorative dental services for low income children and pregnant women. It was started in 2004. The program employs a full-time dental hygienist who offers clinics at area preschools, public schools, and at Public Health Departments. Since its inception, 3,660 children have benefited from the program. SJBHD was awarded two grants. One was to purchase dental equipment and cover maintenance on the mobile unit. The other was to acquire a dental field unit and “hands-on” education tool kit for a preventive dental program.</p>	
Funding Status <p>The total funding award was \$66,450 - \$36,850 for the equipment and maintenance; and \$29,600 for the second field unit.</p> <p>To date, \$32,763 has been disseminated.</p>	
Update – March 2007 <p>Since November 1, the mobile dental unit has provided 13 clinics – 2 in Pagosa Springs, 8 in Cortez, and 3 in Durango.</p> <p>Staffing has been stable. The primary dentist who runs the clinic in Cortez has agreed to work with them for another two years. The Montezuma County Health Department in Cortez staffs the bus with their outreach worker. In Pagosa Springs, the dentist provides his own dental assistant.</p> <p>They encountered problems with the equipment in cold weather. Holding clinics in the afternoon whenever possible helped. The new equipment purchased with these grant funds is much more “cold weather resistant.”</p>	