



# Colorado Rural Health Center

"Enhancing healthcare services in Colorado by providing information, education, linkages, tools & energy toward addressing rural healthcare issues."

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## Colorado Rural Health Care Grant Program FACT SHEET

A new grant program is available to support the health infrastructure in Colorado's rural communities. This Fact Sheet, provided by the Colorado Rural Health Care Grant Council, contains frequently asked questions to provide basic information about the program.

### **What is the purpose of the grant program?**

The general purpose of this program is to improve the provision of health care services in rural Colorado. The funds are intended to support outpatient primary care – outpatient primary care services are considered to be the basic, entry level care (medical, oral and mental) provided by clinicians. This care is generally provided in an outpatient clinic or medical office setting.

### **What is the Colorado Rural Health Care Grants Council?**

Through Executive Order B 007 07, Governor Ritter created the Council to develop and provide oversight for this grants program. Twelve members were appointed and the first meeting was held in December 2007. The Executive Order and a list of the Council members may be found at [www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/programs/ruralgrant.htm](http://www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/programs/ruralgrant.htm)

### **How much money is available?**

A total of \$7.5 million is currently available. The Executive Order states that grant funds will be available beginning in 2008 through 2012. The Council is planning to award a minimum of \$1 million per year, for the next five years, through scheduled grant cycles.

### **Where did these funds come from?**

The funds were donated by UnitedHealth Group - [www.unitedhealthgroup.com](http://www.unitedhealthgroup.com) - to help remedy deficiencies in access to health care for rural and underserved residents of Colorado.

### **Who is eligible to apply?**

While the Council members recognize the contributions made to rural Colorado from urban-based organizations, only applicants from rural Colorado are eligible to apply. However, rural applicants have the option of contracting for urban-based services or resources to meet the objectives of their grant proposals.

### **What is considered "rural"?**

For the purposes of this grant program, applicants must be located outside of Colorado's Urbanized Areas (UAs). The US Census defines a UA as "a central place(s) and adjacent territory with a general population density of at least 1,000

*people per square mile of land area that together have a minimum residential population of at least 50,000 people.”* Colorado currently has nine UAs: Boulder, Colorado Springs, Denver, Fort Collins, Grand Junction, Greeley, Longmont, Louisville, and Pueblo. To determine whether or not an address is located outside of a UA, go to <http://maps.rupri.org/circ/racrural/amirural.asp> or contact the Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC).

**What kinds of projects will be funded?**

The Council realizes that an almost limitless array of health infrastructure needs exists in rural Colorado; however, these grant funds will focus on improving primary care services.

**What is considered “primary care”?**

For the purposes of this grant program, the definition of primary care is defined as follows: *“outpatient primary care services are considered to be the basic, entry level care (medical, oral and mental) provided by clinicians. This care is generally provided in an outpatient clinic or medical office setting.”*

**What types of entities are eligible to apply?**

Applicant entities must provide outpatient primary care services – medical, oral, or mental health services - to underserved people in rural Colorado. Recognizing that underserved people in rural Colorado are served by a wide variety of entities, an applicant may be private non-profit, public/government, or private for-profit.

**Who is considered “underserved”?**

For the purposes of this grant program, “underserved” will include people who cannot afford care, the uninsured, and those covered by Medicaid or the CHP+ program. Each applicant entity will be asked to describe the types and amounts of service provided to underserved people.

**Is there an appeal process for eligibility?**

The Council members realize that there may be unintended consequences when setting eligibility criteria. Some entities providing services that meet the intent of the program might be ineligible to apply based on the guidelines. Such organizations may submit an eligibility appeal. Information on the appeal process is available at [www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/programs/ruralgrant.htm](http://www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/programs/ruralgrant.htm).

**What size are the grant awards?**

The maximum award amount is \$50,000 per applicant.

**Is there a match required?**

Applicants are not required to match the amount of grant funds awarded; however, any matching funds available should be described in this section of the narrative and listed on the Budget Worksheet. The match may be cash or in-

kind, and will be considered favorably, especially if evidence of community participation in the project is demonstrated.

**What types of activities will be funded?**

Grants will not be awarded for the delivery of direct health care services or to support operations or staffing. Grants will be funded for projects that support the rural health infrastructure and strengthen the capacity of rural entities to provide outpatient primary care services now and in the future. Infrastructure includes, but is not limited to: equipment, construction, physical plant improvements, vehicles and transportation, information technology, and staff training or education. Although facility improvements or expansions are a viable use of the funds, projects must be completed within one year of the award. Therefore, long-term construction projects are generally not eligible.

**Will funding be provided for multiple years to a grantee?**

Grants will only be awarded for one year, but applicants may apply for additional awards in subsequent years.

**Are there additional funding preferences?**

The Council hopes to learn from the grant application and awards process each year, and may alter or add preferences and expectations in subsequent years. While all applicants must meet the basic eligibility and grant application requirements, in the first year, preference will be given to applications that:

- Demonstrate collaboration with other organizations in the delivery of services;
- Demonstrate leveraging, but not duplication, of other available resources; and/or
- Are from counties with limited primary care access.

**How does the grant application process work?**

The Council has set a grant deadline date of May 15, 2008. Announcements will be distributed statewide. Potential applicants will be asked to submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) by March 18, 2008, stating their intent to apply, and briefly describing their entity and proposed project. The LOI process will allow the Council and staff members to monitor statewide outreach, prepare adequately for the number of applications that might be received, and contact any potential applicant whose entity or project might not meet eligibility requirements. The application guidelines and instructions will be made available through the Colorado Rural Health Center. Applicants will not be deemed ineligible if they do not submit the LOI before the deadline, but are encouraged to do so in order to develop a communication link with the Colorado Rural Health Center in the event that additional information is made available. Depending on the response to the first round of awards, a second round may be held in the fall of 2008.

### **How will grants be reviewed?**

Grant applications will initially be reviewed for completion by staff from the Colorado Rural Health Center to ensure that basic requirements are met. Then, multiple reviewers will be assigned to review and score each application. Review Committee members may include Council members, staff and/or board members from CRHC, and community volunteers. The Council will make final award decisions based on the scores of each application, community impact, geographic distribution, diversity of projects, and applicant type.

NOTE: If you are interested in volunteering as a grant reviewer, information is available at [www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/programs/ruralgrant.htm](http://www.coruralhealth.org/crhc/programs/ruralgrant.htm). You are not precluded from applying if you serve as a reviewer. Reviewers are assigned to review applications with which they have no conflict of interest.

### **Where can I get more information?**

CRHC (the State Office of Rural Health) is managing the program on behalf of the Council. The CRHC website contains information about the Colorado Rural Health Care Grant program including:

- A copy of the Executive Order
- A list of Council members and meeting minutes
- Grant application deadlines
- Grant application guidelines and instructions
- Questions and answers that arise during the process
- Information regarding volunteering as a reviewer
- Information about awards made (when available)

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