

CRHC Critical Access Hospital Profile

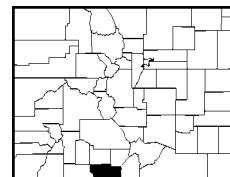
Spotlight on: La Jara, Colorado

Conejos County Hospital

The Colorado Critical Access Hospital (CAH) Program is administered by the Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC). The Colorado CAH Profiles have been developed to inform, update, and share the successes and challenges of all CAHs in Colorado.

Mission:

We, the employees of Conejos County Hospital, and Wellness Center, commit as a team to provide the best possible total care to all.

County: Conejos**Address:** 19021 US Hwy 285, La Jara, CO 81140**Phone:** 719-274-5121**Fax:** 719-274-6047

Quick Facts

CAH Certification Date:
November 2000**Administrator:**
Tom Henton, CEO**Chief of Medical Staff:**
Vaughn Jackson, M.D.**Board Chair:**
Jan Gay**Employees:** 123**City Population:** 3,000**Service Area
Population:** 4,500**Owned by:**
Conejos County
Hospital Corporation**Hospital Beds:** 17**Trauma Level:** IV

How Has CAH Status Affected the Hospital?

	2 yrs prior to CAH	2 yrs after CAH
Average Daily Census	9.55	6.35
Operating Margin	0.61%	0.10%
FTEs	132	105
Medicare Charges	\$5,637,420	\$5,849,305
Medicare Acute ALOS	3.35	3.1

A study was conducted for 10 Colorado CAHs comparing data from two years prior to conversion to two years after conversion. Results revealed that on average for the 10 hospitals:

- Gross Medicare revenue increased by 29%
- Net Medicare revenue increased by 45%
- Patient service margin increased by 2.71%
- Swing bed discharges increased by 26%
- Swing bed patient days increased by 49%
- Number of employees decreased by 3 FTEs

This information was extracted from the Colorado Health and Hospital Association's DATABANK system.

Network Development Affiliate:

San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center - Alamosa, CO

Provisions Included: Patient Transfer and Quality Improvement

CAH Technical Assistance Grant History

August 2000: Hired a consultant to conduct community needs assessment and to develop strategic plan; developed community outreach efforts; hired administrative assistant to help with conversion process; held community meetings regarding CAH conversion; held CAH Task Force and strategic planning meetings; staff attended CDPHE sponsored MDS Training in Pueblo.

May 2001: Hired consultant to conduct billing and coding review and comprehensive CAH Operational Assessment.

April 2003: Formed a joint partnership with San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center; initiated a 3rd party review of asset base; Internal review of the current system and comprehensive audit.

April 2004: Conducted community health needs assessment throughout the San Luis Valley; created management training education tool.

The Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC)

The Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC) is a diverse mix of people, programs, and places interested in Colorado's rural healthcare. The Center's mission is to enhance healthcare services by providing information, education, linkages, tools and energy toward addressing rural healthcare issues. The CRHC serves as the State Office of Rural Health, yet remains an independent, non-profit organization.

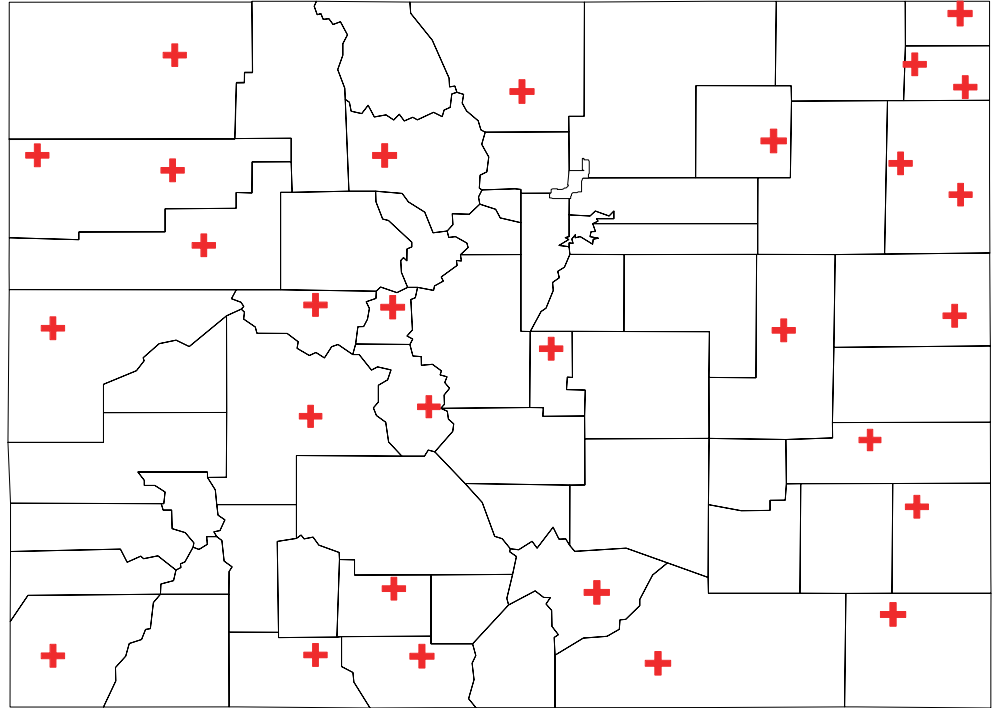
Colorado Critical Access Hospital Program (CAH)

The Critical Access Hospital Program was created by Congress in 1997 to help alleviate the negative impact the Balanced Budget Act had on the fragile rural healthcare delivery system. A small, rural hospital, with no more than 25 beds (any combination of acute or swing), providing emergency care, and not located within 35 miles of another hospital, can qualify for CAH status and receive cost based reimbursement for all Medicare patients.

The Center is the recipient of the Rural Hospital Flexibility (Flex) Grant, which provides federal funding to administer the CAH program and to assist the CAHs with issues related to quality improvement, emergency medical services, and network development.

At least one half of the Flex grant funds are dispersed to the hospitals each year through the Center's CAH technical assistance grants.

There are currently 29 CAH's in Colorado. For more information about each CAH, [click here](#) or go to www.coruralhealth.org.



A Look at the History of Conejos County !



The San Luis Valley is comprised of six counties in south central Colorado, including Conejos County and encompasses some of the best farmland in Colorado. The elevation of Conejos County ranges from 7,546 to 13,190 feet.

In its early history, there were seven Native American tribes which occupied the general area of the valley; Apache, Arapahoe, Cheyenne, Comanche, Kiowa, Navajo, and Ute. Prior to the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, France occupied the ridge of the front range of the Rocky mountains as the buffer line between French and Spanish territory. In 1819, the Spanish accepted the Arkansas River as the trade boundary with the United States.

The first settlement was established in 1854 in Conejos County. The early history of indigenous peoples included newcomers of European ancestry who arrived during the early history of the valley. The first were traders and trappers, who explored the valley and traded with the Native Americans. Their exploration of the wilderness made them valuable scouts for both exploration and military expeditions. A group of Spanish speaking people came into the San Luis Valley from Abiqui, New Mexico and settled on the north bank of the Conejos River just below the spot where the town of Conejos now stands. They called the place Guadalupe. Other villages began to sprout, and to the north, Capulin was established in 1867 by settlers from Ojo Caliente, New Mexico. By 1870, there were a scattering of villages along the rivers. Early settlers made their living farming and ranching. Seven years later, in 1877, 70 members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints came from the deep south. They were soon followed by others from Utah. The Mormons settled Manassa and Sanford to the east of earlier settlements.