

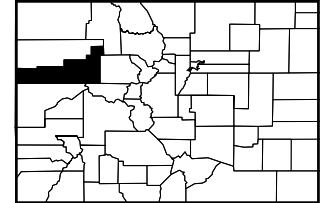
# CRHC Critical Access Hospital Profile

## Spotlight on: Rifle, Colorado Grand River Hospital District

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:**

To optimize the health and well being of the people we serve.

**County:** Garfield**Address:** PO Box 912, 501 Airport Road,  
Rifle, CO 81650**Phone :** 970-625-1510 **Fax:** 970-625-6486

### Quick Facts

**CAH Certification Date:**  
January 2003**Chief Executive Officer:**  
Martie Wisdom**Chief of Medical Staff:**  
Gary Meyer, DO**Board Chair:**  
Bruce Mills**Employees:** 354**City Population:** 9,000**Service Area  
Population:** 28,000**Owned by:**  
Grand River Hospital  
District (Community)**Hospital Beds:** 14**Trauma Level:** IV

### How Has CAH Status Affected the Hospital?

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:**

St. Mary's Hospital and Medical Center - Grand Junction, CO

Provisions Included: Patient Transfer and Quality Assurance

Swedish Medical Center - Denver, CO

### CAH Technical Assistance Grant History

**April 2001:** Prepared for CAH Survey; utilized project coordinator to assist with preparation; updated existing policies and procedures.**EMS July 2003:** Garfield County disaster drill to evaluate the response and resource capability of the Emergency Planning System.**EMS January 2004:** Conducted courses for IV Certification and PALS training.**EMS April 2005:** Partnered with local police department to notify community of the availability of and instructions for use of bicycle helmets and car seats.

## 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.

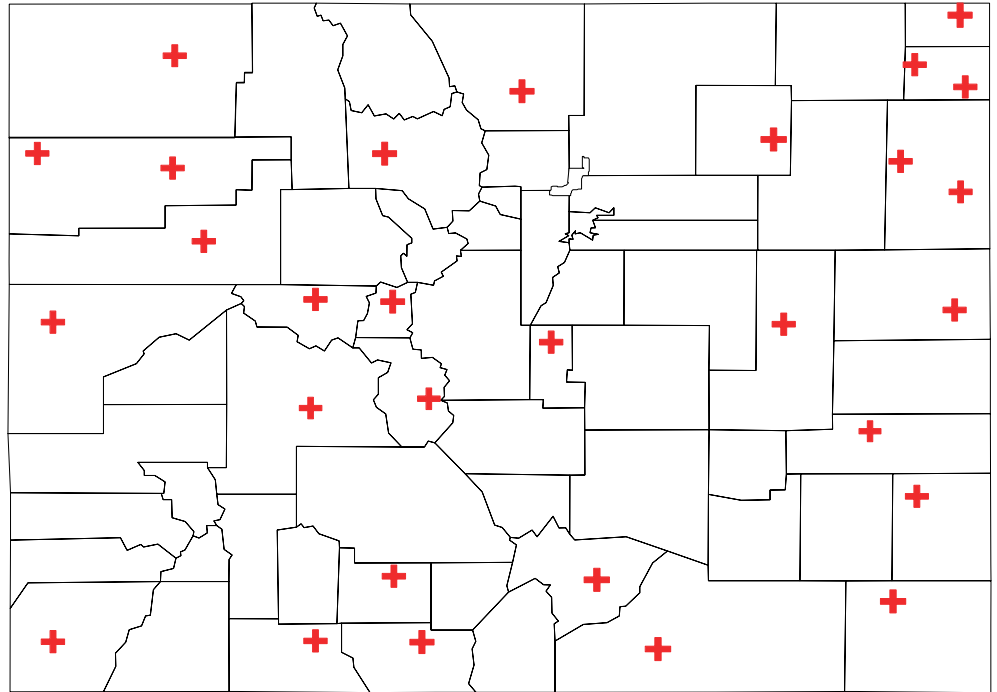
## Colorado Critical Access Hospital Program (CAH)

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](http://www.coruralhealth.org).



## Exciting News from Grand River Hospital District !

A number of strategic planning activities are currently underway at Grand River Hospital District. These activities are designed to answer important questions such as: *What will the communities we serve require of us over the next 5 years? How will we ensure that we can provide those services while maintaining financial health and clinical excellence? What new services will we offer and which services might become obsolete?* In order to accurately identify the answers to these questions, GRHD medical staff, administrators and directors have completed extensive questionnaires on their vision for the District's future and their perception of future community needs. Demographic information is also being carefully evaluated in order to forecast the level of demand for GRHD's services over the next 5 years. A series of "Community Conversations" luncheons have been held to provide an opportunity for community members to share their views on how the District can better serve the communities. Grand River Hospital District is fortunate to be able to go forward with our decision-making process without pressure to achieve an immediate financial benefit. The ability to do this is a direct result of the fact that Grand River Hospital District is "not for profit and not for sale" - answerable only to the communities we serve.

