

Colorado Rural Health Care

GRANT PROGRAM



Fact Sheet

The Colorado Rural Health Care 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 Colorado Rural Health Care Grant Council to develop and provide oversight for this grant 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 <http://www.coruralhealth.org/programs/crhcgp>.

How much money is available?

The Executive Order states that a total of \$7.5 million is available from 2008 through 2012. The Council will award up to \$2 million in the 2011 grant cycle. A total of \$1,917,136.88 was awarded in 2008, \$1,207,863 in 2009, and \$1,074,719.09 in 2010.

Where did these funds come from?

The funds were donated by UnitedHealth Group – <http://www.uhc.com> to help remedy deficiencies in access to health care for rural underserved Coloradans.

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, contact the Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC) or visit <http://maps.rupri.org/circ/racural/amirural.asp>.

What kinds of projects will be funded?

The Council realizes that an almost limitless array of health infrastructure needs exist 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 the underserved in rural Colorado. Recognizing that the underserved 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” includes people who cannot afford care, the uninsured and/or low income, and those covered by Medicaid or the Children’s Health Plan Plus (CHP+) program. Each applicant entity will be asked to describe the types and amounts of service provided to underserved people.

What size are the grant awards?

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

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 the narrative and included 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 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, physical plant improvements, 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 physical plant improvement projects are generally not eligible. Grants will not be awarded for the delivery of direct health care services or to support operations or staffing.

Applicants pursuing electronic medical record projects must follow guidelines for meaningful use and should work with a Colorado Regional Extension Center (CO-REC) partner through the Colorado Regional Health Information Organization (CORHIO). Further information will be sent to these specific applicants upon receipt of their ITA or Application.

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, preference will be given to:

- Projects that demonstrate collaboration with other organizations in the delivery of services;
- Projects that include or involve mental or oral health services in the delivery of primary care;
- Projects that involve and demonstrate availability of other available funding and resources;
- Projects in counties with limited primary care access.

Points will be given for the four items listed above based on the applicant's ability to justify or demonstrate them in the application.

In addition, special consideration will be given to applications from organizations that:

- Have not been awarded funds in the past.
- Are from a county that has not been awarded funds in the past.

Applicants do not have to justify the two items listed above. Points will automatically be given for them.

How does the grant application process work?

The Request For Applications (RFA) will be issued and available on December 1, 2010 at <http://www.coruralhealth.org/programs/crhcgp>. Announcements will be distributed statewide. The Council has set a grant application deadline date of March 9, 2011. Potential applicants will be asked to submit an Intent to Apply (ITA) form with some basic information about the applicant and project. The ITA process will allow the Council and staff members to monitor statewide outreach, prepare adequately for the number of applications that might be received, and schedule grant writing workshops. 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 ITA, 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.

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 whether the applicant has been awarded funds in the past, the scores of each application, community impact, whether the project involves oral or mental health, geographic distribution, project type, and applicant type.

NOTE: Information on volunteering as a grant reviewer is available at <http://www.coruralhealth.org/programs/crhcgp/apply.htm>. Applicants are precluded from applying to serve as reviewers during a year in which they are applying.

Where can I get more information?

The Colorado Rural Health Center (the State Office of Rural Health) is managing the program on behalf of the Council. The CRHC website (<http://www.coruralhealth.org/programs>) 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 the appeal process
- Information regarding volunteering as a reviewer
- Information about awards made (when available)