



Access for All Colorado and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Colorado's 15 Community Health Centers are working on a plan to provide a medical home for more than one million low-income uninsured and medically underserved Coloradans over the next 20 years.

This bold plan, called Access for All Colorado, will more than double current Community Health Center capacity. The plan, which has been under development for more than a year, is impacted by the **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act** (ARRA) and state budget cuts.

Congress recognized the vital role of Community Health Centers in our nation's health care system and economy by including Community Health Centers across the country in the ARRA "stimulus" funding package. Colorado Health Centers have received funding from ARRA to help meet growing demand for services that result from job losses.

Most of the funding (\$17 million) for the CHCs from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is one-time funding restricted to capital construction, renovation and equipment purchase. Smaller two-year grants (\$3.75 million each year across the 15 CHCs) have been awarded to help with increased demand for services resulting from the economic downturn.

Colorado has seen a 45 percent increase in the Medicaid caseload above what it was three years ago. At the same time, the economic climate has resulted in declining state revenues and therefore extensive budget cuts. State budget cuts in Fiscal Year 2009-10 that impact Community Health Centers are approximately ten times greater than the ARRA awards to Colorado Community Health Centers for increased demand for services.

The Access for All Colorado plan will require investments from local communities and businesses, patients, foundations, and the state and federal governments. CCHN and Colorado's Community Health Centers are committed to reaching our shared vision of providing a health care home for all low-income medically underserved Coloradans. With ongoing, committed funding Health Centers and our safety net partners can increase our capacity to serve this population.

Follow the links below to learn more about:

- **Access for All Colorado**
www.cchn.org/pdf/about_cchn/news_room/CCHN_Access_for_All_Colorado_Fact_Sheet.pdf

- **ARRA investments** in Colorado Health Centers
 - U.S. Government Web site for information about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act:
www.recovery.gov

 - U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Recovery Web site: URL for ARRA grants to Community Health Centers:
<http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/hrsa/healthcentergrants.html>

 - U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Health Resources and Services Administration: information about the Capitol Investment Program, including FAQs:

- <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/recovery/>
- Colorado Economic Recovery and Accountability Web site:
<http://www.colorado.gov/recovery/>
- CCHN news releases and statements:
<http://www.cchn.org/newsroom.php>
- How the **Primary Care Fund** is helping strengthen Colorado's safety net
http://www.cchn.org/pdf/about_cchn/news_room/CCHN_Primary_Care_Fund_Report.pdf