



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Community Health Centers and Health Service Corps Celebrate Corps Community Day at Job Fair Event

Health care professionals and students can learn about loan repayment programs and opportunities for mission driven careers in underserved and rural communities

What: Colorado Community Health Centers (CCHCs), the National Health Service Corps (NHSC), Colorado Health Service Corps (CHSC) and other safety net partners are teaming up to host “Connecting Health Education to Service,” a jobs fair and networking event for health care professionals and students. Job seekers can get information on loan repayment programs and mission driven careers in rural and underserved communities in Colorado. This event takes place on the national “Corps Community Day,” a celebration of people committed to serving in rural and underserved communities.

When: Thursday October 13, 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Where: University of Colorado, Anschutz Campus
Trivisible Room, #2100 (2nd floor) Research Building 2
12700 East 19th Ave., Aurora, CO 80045

Who: In 2011, NHSC and CHSC combined to award a record \$14.5 million in grants to 320 primary care providers in Colorado. Many of them went to work at one of the 131 Community Health Center (CHC) sites in Colorado – Colorado CHCs provide a health care home for 500,000 people living in 57 of the state’s 64 counties. Others went to rural health clinics and community funded safety-net clinics in Colorado.

Why: The demand for primary care is soaring. Many of Colorado’s 3,200 licensed primary care physicians are nearing retirement age, and an increasing percentage of medical students are choosing

specialties other than primary care. Some 85 percent of Colorado is deemed a health professional shortage area.

At the same time, safety net sites that provide health care in underserved communities expect increased demand for their services as a result of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). One in 10 people in Colorado depend on a Community Health Center for primary care. That number is expected to grow dramatically when the ACA is fully implemented in 2014, expanding access to care to an estimated 540,000 Colorado residents.

Info: For more information about the workforce campaign or careers at Colorado Community Health Centers, please go to www.missiondrivencareers.org

About the National and Colorado Health Service Corps

Founded 40 years ago, the National Health Service Corps was created to provide rural areas with essential health services as country doctors retired. The program has evolved over the years, reflecting trends in provider supply and demand. It has consistently received bi-partisan support.

In 2009, recognizing an impending crisis in primary care, the federal government, through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, doubled the number of program recipients.

Founded in 2006 and also receiving bipartisan support, the Colorado Health Service Corps has slightly different requirements than the NHSC, offering providers more flexibility and part-time options. The Colorado Health Service Corps is administered by the Primary Care Office at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment with funding from The Colorado Health Foundation, the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the state of Colorado, The Colorado Trust and the Comprecare Foundation.

About Colorado Community Health Centers

CCHCs are considered by many to be the future of health care because they provide a health care home where patients can access a broad array of services, including medical, dental and behavioral health care. Employees are attracted by the collaborative approach and high-tech facilities that help patients manage complex and chronic conditions. By statute, CCHCs must be included in health plans offered on the new Colorado health insurance exchange, to begin operation in 2014.

For health care professionals, CCHCs offer a deep sense of satisfaction. They treat people who would otherwise have no access to care and they are also on the leading edge of medicine: providers practice outcomes-based medicine in a setting that is integrated, digitized and forward-looking. Further, employees enjoy a collaborative environment, student loan repayment programs, and a flexible work/life balance.

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