

STATE RECEIVES \$42 MILLION GRANT TO FUND HEALTH CARE REFORM AND EXPANSION INITIATIVES

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DENVER – September 2, 2009 – The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing announced today that it has been awarded \$42 million over the next five years from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), State Health Access Program (SHAP) to fund a comprehensive set of initiatives that will lead to greater access to health care, increase positive health outcomes and reduce cost-shifting. HB 09-1293, the Health Care Affordability Act, expanded coverage to more than 100,000 uninsured Coloradans and SHAP funding will be used to make investments in health care infrastructure and technology to ensure that the State’s current health care system works as well as possible. Other SHAP-funded projects include implementing new programs around health insurance benefit design and cost-sharing between public and private insurance.

“Over the past three years, we’ve made significant progress on health care reform,” Gov. Bill Ritter said. “Our initiatives to contain costs, improve quality and expand availability have helped make us a national leader and a model for state health care reform. This grant will allow us to take significant and meaningful steps forward so we can continue to build a stronger health care system for all Coloradans.”

Joan Henneberry, executive director of the Department, added, “The SHAP funding will support the Department’s policy goals of making sure our clients have access to the right health care services in the right places at the right time.”

The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing: The Department administers the Medicaid and Child Health Plan Plus programs as well as a variety of other programs for Colorado’s low-income families, the elderly and persons with disabilities. The mission of the Department is to improve access to cost-effective, quality health care services for Coloradans. For more information about the Department visit www.colorado.gov/hcpf.

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