

MEDICAID RECEIVES \$1.5 MILLION GRANT TO SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

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DENVER – December 15, 2009 – The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing announced today that \$1.5 million has been received by the federal government to support and expand employment opportunities for people with disabilities. The department is working on the project in collaboration with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and several community-based organizations.

Colorado's Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (COMIG) project includes initiatives in three primary areas to support and expand competitive employment opportunities for people with disabilities: Coalition-Building and Communications Infrastructure; Outreach and Training; and Early Design of the Medicaid Buy-In Program. Grant activities will also include an environmental analysis and needs assessment, as well as research and evaluation.

A primary activity of the project is to develop and maintain a statewide stakeholder coalition which will make recommendations about how to reach people, and about the preliminary design of the Medicaid Buy-In Program. Statewide public forums will be conducted to gather stakeholder input ensuring that all future program designs are a result of advice from people in the trenches.

The Medicaid Buy-In Program is a component of the [Colorado Health Care Affordability Act](#) and will be implemented in 2011. The Act authorizes the Department to collect a hospital provider fee and will expand health care coverage to more than 100,000 Coloradans. The Medicaid Buy-In Program will allow adults with disabilities to have gainful employment and keep their Medicaid benefits.

About the Colorado 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, elderly and people 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, please visit Colorado.gov/hcpf.

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