

# **COLORADO MEDICAID RECEIVES \$7.7 MILLION FEDERAL GRANT TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE QUALITY FOR CHILDREN**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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DENVER – February 26, 2010 – The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing announces that Colorado Medicaid and New Mexico Medicaid have been awarded \$7.7 million by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. The grants are awarded over a five-year period through the Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act, or [CHIPRA](#).

The award of the federal grant is the result of collaboration between the department and the [Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment](#). The grant’s main objective will be to evaluate the School-Based Health Center model of comprehensive health care service delivery to determine if the model can be recommended for replication on a broader scale. The grant will not provide direct service funds to the School-Based Health Centers in Colorado or New Mexico.

Colorado’s award is one of ten granted nationwide to improve health care quality and delivery systems for children enrolled in Medicaid and Child Health Plan Plus, or CHP+.

“The department’s mission is to improve access to cost-effective, quality health care services for Coloradans,” states Annie Lee, health policy analyst. “School-Based Health Centers play a vital role in supporting this mission. The federal grant will allow us to evaluate health care quality and implement new processes to enhance the function of centers in Colorado and New Mexico improving the health of children.”

[School-Based Health Centers](#), or SBHCs, play an important role in the health care landscape for school-aged children and adolescents in Colorado. Urban and rural regions present distinct health care and access needs, and SBHCs are increasingly relied upon to provide those services to students who lack care elsewhere.

School-Based Health Centers address health concerns and:

- Enroll children in Medicaid and CHP+; decreasing the number of uninsured children;

- Improve levels of immunization and well-child and adolescent care;
- Reduce the use of expensive emergency room care;
- Reduce behavioral health risks among vulnerable populations of students;
- Engage a broad local community constituency in health planning for children; and
- Involve local school and public health with the private sector, improving comprehensiveness, quality and access to health care.

**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 of Health Care Policy and Financing, please visit [colorado.gov/hcpf](http://colorado.gov/hcpf).

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