

67,500 MORE COLORADANS ELIGIBLE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSURANCE

Funded through the Colorado Health Care Affordability Act Provider Fee

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DENVER – April 29, 2010 – The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing announced today that 67,500 additional Coloradans will be eligible for Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* as of May 1, 2010.

The [Colorado Health Care Affordability Act](#), signed by Governor Ritter in 2009, authorized the department to collect a hospital provider fee to expand health care coverage to more than 100,000 Coloradans. When fully implemented, \$600 million in fees will be matched by federal dollars for a total of \$1.2 billion annually.

On May 1, an estimated 44,000 parents who have a child on Medicaid and 24,000 children and pregnant women will be eligible for health care coverage as a result of the hospital provider fee at no cost to the taxpayer.

CHP+ eligibility is increasing from 205 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$45,000 per year for a family of four, to 250 percent which is about \$55,000 per year for a family of four.

Eligibility for parents with a child on Medicaid can make up to 100 percent of the federal poverty level - \$22,056 per year for a family of four. This is up from 60 percent, or \$13,234.

Families must apply for benefits and provide documentation of income, identification and citizenship. English and Spanish applications are available online at Colorado.gov/hcpf, at local departments of social services and by calling 303-866-3513 or toll free at 800-221-3943.

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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