STATE APPLYING FOR FUNDING TO IMPROVE THE LONG-TERM CARE SYSTEM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 9, 2010

Contact: Joanne Lindsay 303-866-3144

DENVER – August 9, 2010 – The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing announced today that Colorado is applying for the Money Follows the Person Rebalancing Demonstration grant offered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, or CMS. A total of \$2.25 billion over five years was made available through the Federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to support states' efforts to move from institutionally-based and provider-driven care to "person-centered" client directed and community-based care.

"The Money Follows the Person, or MFP, funding will allow us to build on the work we have been doing to support individuals who are able to stay in their homes and communities," says Joan Henneberry, executive director. "We are committed to providing independence, choice and dignity to Coloradans who want to live in their homes. The documented trend of the increase in clients in the Home and Community-Based programs and the stabilization of the number of clients in nursing facilities demonstrates the success of our current efforts. Receiving a MFP grant will give us the resources we need to improve on that success."

There will be a wide-spread stakeholder input process to include clients and their families, providers, advocates and agencies serving Medicaid clients. This critical stakeholder input will be used to prioritize and identify elements for inclusion in the implementation plan. Forum dates and information on how to be involved will be posted on the Department's Web site.

Applying for the MFP grant is an initial step the state is taking to implement Colorado's "Olmstead: Recommendations and Policy Options for Colorado" report released July 31, 2010.

Planning grant proposals are due September 7, 2010. A total of \$200,000 per state is available for this planning grant. The implementation proposal will be submitted in January 2011. The funding available for implementation is based on the states' proposed operational plan.

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 and its programs, please visit colorado.gov/hcpf.