COLORADO MEDICAID LAUNCHES COLORADO CHOICE TRANSITIONS PROGRAM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DENVER – March 1, 2013 – The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (Department) announced today that the Colorado Choice Transitions (CCT) program is now ready to take referrals and enroll clients. CCT is a \$22 million, five-year grant initiative that is expected to move approximately 490 Medicaid clients from nursing homes into home and community-based settings. Clients who are willing and able to live in their communities will receive enhanced home and community-based services (HCBS). The program's objective is to provide Medicaid clients who use long-term services and supports with choices about how, when and where they want to receive their services. Services are intended to promote independence, improve the transition process, and support individuals in the community.

"Colorado Choice Transitions provides our clients an opportunity to return to the home and community," said Susan E. Birch, executive director. "Through CCT, our clients will have a choice of services and supports that will assist them in addressing their health care needs, preferences and desires for community living."

Colorado Choice Transitions is part of the federal Money Follows the Person (MFP) grant program. Currently, HCBS services and supports are paid at a 50/50 federal/state matching rate. Under CCT, Colorado receives an enhanced federal match, along with an additional 25 percent payment which will go into a fund used to expand a variety of long-term services and supports to Medicaid clients statewide. The Department estimates it will accrue approximately \$4.5 million into the fund through 2016.

Colorado Choice Transitions requires that participants meet the eligibility requirements for Long-Term Care Medicaid, and:

- Are 18 years of age or older;
- Have Medicaid eligibility for at least one day before discharging from a nursing facility;
- Reside in a long-term care facility for 90 consecutive days or more, (rehabilitation days do not count toward the 90 day minimum); and
- Are willing to move into qualified housing.

For more information on the program visit Colorado.gov/hcpf/CCT.

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 low-income Coloradans, families, children, pregnant women, the elderly and people with disabilities. The mission of the department is to improve health care access and outcomes for the people we serve while demonstrating sound stewardship of financial resources. For more information about the department, please visit Colorado.gov/hcpf.