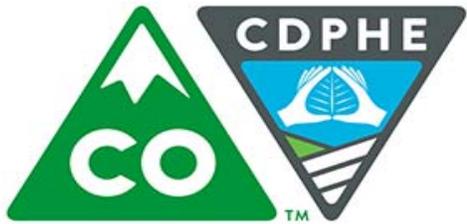




COLORADO
Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

**COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE
POLICY AND FINANCING**

AND



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

**COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT**

*ANNUAL REPORT OF EXPENDITURES
FROM THE NURSING HOME PENALTY CASH FUND*

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HOUSE PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
SENATE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Section 25-1-107.5, C.R.S.

October 1, 2015



1570 Grant Street
Denver, CO 80203



4300 Cherry Creek South
Denver, CO 80246

October 1, 2015

Governor John W. Hickenlooper
136 State Capitol
Denver, CO 80203-1792

Dear Governor Hickenlooper:

Enclosed please find the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing and the Department of Public Health and Environment's (the Departments') legislative report on the Nursing Home Penalty Cash Fund (NHPCF).

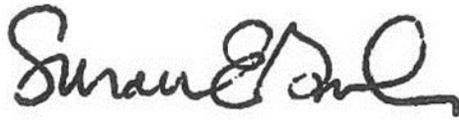
Section 25-1-107.5, C.R.S. requires the Departments to jointly submit an annual report to the Governor, the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, and the House Public Health Care and Human Services Committee regarding the expenditure of moneys in the NHPCF for the purposes described in Section 25-1-107.5(4)(c)(II), C.R.S. The report shall detail the amount of moneys expended for such purposes, the recipients of the funds, and the effectiveness of the use of the funds, and any other information deemed pertinent by the departments or requested by the governor or the committees.

The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing and the Department of Public Health and Environment are pleased to submit this report on behalf of the Board. The Departments are supportive of the culture change initiatives and appreciates the Board's work on this important issue. The report describes the goals, costs, and results of State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2014-15 projects funded by grants from the NHPCF for projects to benefit nursing home residents by improving their quality of life, as authorized by the statute. The report also describes the goals and proposed funding for SFY 2015-16 grants. Attachment A contains information on the SFY 2014-15 projects funded by the grants. Attachment B contains information on the SFY 2015-16 grant requests.

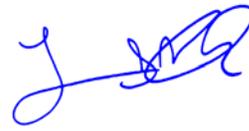
If you require further information or have additional questions, please contact Zach Lynkiewicz, Legislative Liaison, Department of Health Care Policy and Financing at 720-854-9882 or Randy Kuykendall, Director, Health Facilities and Emergency Medical Services Division, Department of Public Health and Environment, at 303-692-2945.



Sincerely,



Susan E. Birch, MBA, BSN, RN
Executive Director
Department of Health Care Policy and
and Financing



Larry I. Wolk, M.D.
Executive Director and Chief Medical
Officer Department of Public Health
Environment

SEB/jt

Enclosure(s): 2015 Nursing Home Penalty Cash Fund Report

Cc: Kyle M. Brown, Senior Health Policy Advisor, Governor's Office
Legislative Council Library
State Library
John Bartholomew, Finance Office Director, HCPF
Gretchen Hammer, Health Programs Office Director, HCPF
Dr. Judy Zerzan, Client and Clinical Care Office Director, HCPF
Chris Underwood, Health Information Office Director, HCPF
Jed Ziegenhagen, Community Living Office Director, HCPF
Tom Massey, Policy, Communications, and Administration Office Director, HCPF
Rachel Reiter, External Relations Division Director, HCPF
Zach Lynkiewicz, Legislative Liaison, HCPF





COLORADO
Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

1570 Grant Street
Denver, CO 80203



COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

4300 Cherry Creek South
Denver, CO 80246

October 1, 2015

The Honorable Dianne Primavera, Chair
Public Health Care and Human Services Committee
200 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Representative Primavera:

Enclosed please find the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing and the Department of Public Health and Environment's (the Departments') legislative report on the Nursing Home Penalty Cash Fund (NHPCF) to the House Public Health Care and Human Services Committee.

Section 25-1-107.5, C.R.S. requires the Departments to jointly submit an annual report to the Governor, the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, and the House Public Health Care and Human Services Committee regarding the expenditure of moneys in the NHPCF for the purposes described in Section 25-1-107.5(4)(c)(II), C.R.S. The report shall detail the amount of moneys expended for such purposes, the recipients of the funds, and the effectiveness of the use of the funds, and any other information deemed pertinent by the departments or requested by the governor or the committees.

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Sincerely,



Susan E. Birch, MBA, BSN, RN
Executive Director
Department of Health Care Policy and
Financing

Sincerely,



Larry I. Wolk, M.D.
Executive Director and Chief Medical
Officer Department of Public Health and
Environment

SEB/jt

Enclosure(s): 2015 Nursing Home Penalty Cash Fund Report

Cc: Representative Jonathan Singer, Vice-Chair, Public Health Care and Human Services Committee
Representative Jessie Danielson, Public Health Care and Human Services Committee
Representative Joann Ginal, Public Health Care and Human Services Committee
Representative Jovan Melton, Public Health Care and Human Services Committee
Representative Dominick Moreno, Public Health Care and Human Services Committee
Representative Max Tyler, Public Health Care and Human Services Committee
Representative Lois Landgraf, Public Health Care and Human Services Committee
Representative Kathleen Conti, Public Health Care and Human Services Committee
Representative Justin Everett, Public Health Care and Human Services Committee
Representative Janak Joshi, Public Health Care and Human Services Committee
Representative Lang Sias, Public Health Care and Human Services Committee
Representative JoAnn Windholz, Public Health Care and Human Services Committee
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Zach Lynkiewicz, Legislative Liaison, HCPF





1570 Grant Street
Denver, CO 80203



4300 Cherry Creek South
Denver, CO 80246

October 1, 2015

The Honorable Kevin Lundberg, Chair
Health and Human Services Committee
200 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Senator Lundberg:

Enclosed please find the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing and the Department of Public Health and Environment's (the Departments') legislative report on the Nursing Home Penalty Cash Fund (NHPCF) to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee.

Section 25-1-107.5, C.R.S. requires the Departments to jointly submit an annual report to the Governor, the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, and the House Public Health Care and Human Services Committee regarding the expenditure of moneys in the NHPCF for the purposes described in Section 25-1-107.5(4)(c)(II), C.R.S. The report shall detail the amount of moneys expended for such purposes, the recipients of the funds, and the effectiveness of the use of the funds, and any other information deemed pertinent by the departments or requested by the governor or the committees.

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Sincerely,



Susan E. Birch, MBA, BSN, RN
Executive Director
Department of Health Care Policy and
Financing

Sincerely,



Larry I. Wolk, M.D.
Executive Director and Chief Medical
Officer Department of Public Health and
Environment

SEB/jt

Enclosure(s): 2015 Nursing Home Penalty Cash Fund Report

Cc: Senator Larry Crowder, Vice-Chair, Health and Human Services Committee
Senator Beth Martinez Humenik, Health and Human Services Committee
Senator Irene Aguilar, Health and Human Services Committee
Senator Linda Newell, Health and Human Services Committee
Legislative Council Library
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Rachel Reiter, External Relations Division Director, HCPF
Zach Lynkiewicz, Legislative Liaison, HCPF

Nursing Home Penalty Cash Fund (NHPCF) Expenditure Report

State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2014-15

Introduction

House Bill 09-1196 established the Nursing Facility Culture Change Accountability Board (NFCCAB) and authorized funding to support facility-based culture change and improved quality of life. This legislation also required the NFCCAB to offer annual expenditure reports to the Governor and legislature on the projects funded during the most recent grant award cycle and on the projects to be funded in the coming grant period. This is the fourth annual NHPCF expenditure report. The three previous reports were created by members of the NFCCAB. This report was created by staff from the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing.

House Bill 09-1196 authorized the use of a portion of the NHPCF to improve the quality of life for nursing homes residents. Funding requests considered for award include, but are not limited to those that support:

- consumer education on assessing Culture Change in nursing facilities and recognizing whether a nursing facility uses Person-Centered Care;
- training for state surveyors, supervisors, and the state and local long term care ombudsman regarding Culture Change in nursing facilities;
- development of a newsletter and website detailing information on Culture Change in nursing facilities and related information; and
- education and consultation for the purposes of identifying and implementing Culture Change initiatives in nursing facilities.

Senate Bill 14-151 dissolved the NFCCAB Board and created the Nursing Home Innovations Grant Board (NHIGB). This Board will offer recommendations to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and Health Care Policy and Financing (“Departments”) for the expenditure of NHPCF funds. This legislation also created a maximum budget for grant disbursements. If the balance in the NHPCF is greater than \$2 million dollars as of July 1, \$250,000.00 will be allocated to the NHIGB for grant awards and administration. If the NHPCF balance is less than \$2 million dollars as of July 1, the Department of Health Care Policy and

Financing will make available to the NHIGB 25 percent of the funds deposited in the NHPCF in the immediately preceding fiscal year. SB 14-151 also changed the time periods for grant expenditures. Prior to the current SFY, awarded grant funds had to be fully expended by June 30th. The new legislation allows for the expenditure of grant funds over a maximum of three years. SB 14-151 maintains the requirements that grant projects be portable, sustainable, and replicable in other nursing facilities.

Nursing Home Innovations Grant Board (NHIGB) Appointment and Development

The Departments recommended to the Governor's Office two re-appointments from the NFCCAB, two re-appointment designees from the NFCCAB, and six new member appointments. The first meeting of the new NHIGB was in October 2014 at which its Chair and Vice Chair were elected. Currently, the only vacancy on the Board is the HCPF designee as a result of a recent change in staff. The Department will fill the vacancy shortly.

Grants and Moneys Expended

The NHIGB received and reviewed applications from various organizations in Colorado including consultants, charitable organizations, nursing home providers, management companies, higher education, government and others. In the seventh grant cycle, SFY 2015-16, the Board received 17 grant applications and awarded funds to 11 organizations. During the sixth grant cycle year (SFY 2014-2015) and prior to the passage of SB 14-151, the Board received 13 grant applications and awarded funds to nine organizations. The applications were thoroughly reviewed and scored by the Board using uniform criteria. The recommended awards met the statutory standard and spirit, were innovative, were replicable, measurable, sustainable, and impactful. Administrative costs were rarely funded and no capital requests were funded. The Board increased efforts to educate stakeholders on Culture Change concepts and grant criteria. The Departments approved the recommendations offered by the Board. Organizations receiving grants were provided with State vendor numbers and instructions for invoicing for expense reimbursements.

Grants funded in SFY 2014-15 were started in December of 2014, and quarterly reports have been received and reviewed by the Board. Grantee reports submitted to the Board included grant deliverable updates and financial accounting of fund expenditures. Board members were assigned to liaison between the grantees and the Board. Members of the Board conducted on-site visits or

in-person meetings with grant recipient organizations. Project results are not available yet, as the grant periods are now extended up to three years.

The grant recipients, amounts awarded and purposes of the grants for SFY 2014-15 are summarized on Attachment A of this document. The list below identifies the financial accounting for the funds available for grants completed in SFYs 2014-15, and 2015-16.

Total Funds Allocated in SFY 2014-15	\$250,000.00
Grant Funds Awarded	\$138,239.00
Undisbursed funds	\$111,761.00
Total Funds Allocated in SFY 2015-16	\$250,000.00
Grants Funds Awarded	\$194,899.00
Undisbursed funds	\$55,101.00

Effectiveness of the Grants

The Board continued to meet throughout SFY 2014-15 and beyond, to review quarterly reports and new grant applications. The Board completed reviews by the end of the fiscal year.

Each grant applicant is required to provide basic organization information, a financial statement, project information including a budget, projected impact and an evaluation plan. The Board and Departments review quarterly grant reports. The grantees are reimbursed by the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing as invoices are received.

The description of grant awards for SFY 2014-15 is outlined in Attachment A. Grants to be awarded for SFY 2015-16 are reflected in Attachment B.

ATTACHMENT A

SFY 2014-15 DISBURSEMENTS FROM THE NURSING HOME CASH PENALTY FUND

1. Summit Rehab and Care Community, \$24,552

Optimizing Medication Systems through a Collaborative Learning Environment

The project will assist the efforts of six Colorado-based skilled nursing communities to streamline medication systems by weaving person-directed care concepts into clinical practices. Each organization will identify: 1) a sample group within the larger community (e.g. a household, neighborhood, or other organizational subset) as its focus for grant project implementation; and 2) an interdisciplinary team for participation in a webinar-based learning collaborative focused on delivery and active, hands-on application of the first new Wellspring module developed by The Eden Alternative, *Optimizing Medication Systems and Usage*.

Grant funds are supporting the participation of these six interdisciplinary teams in four interactive learning cycles.

2. Walbridge Memorial Convalescent Wing, \$2,900

Eden Associate Training

The project funds a three-day certified Eden Associate Training and one on-site all day training for Walbridge staff. Grants funds are being used to pay for the workshop registration, travel expenses, and on-sight training costs for the regional Eden Trainer. Anticipated outcomes will align the 10 Eden principles with Walbridge's core values and integrate them within their current processes.

3. Edu-Catering, \$17,000

Encouraging Colorado to Eliminate Alarms and Prevent Falls by Engaging with Life

This project provides education and encouragement to all Colorado nursing homes to eliminate alarms and prevent falls by helping residents to engage with life, access the bathroom when

needed, anticipate needs and frequently check in on residents. A total of 12 state-wide all-day trainings will be held free of charge on *Eliminating Alarms and Preventing Falls by Engaging with Life*. Two trainings will be provided in each Colorado Culture Change Coalition (CCCC) network area: north, northeast, southern, western and Denver metro north and Denver metro south.

4. Highline Rehab and Care Community, \$16,594

Undisturbed Sleep Study

The purpose of the Undisturbed Sleep Study is to improve resident quality of life as it relates to falls, depression and cognitive status over time. Facility staff are assessing the residents' environment, contacting families regarding the program, purchasing equipment, conducting training, monitoring and developing systems, producing a program, and reporting outcomes. Staff partner with Colorado University Hospital on data collection and publishing. Staff assist with developing, assessing and training others about the outcomes. The scope of the study is limited to one neighborhood, Cherry Creek, which has a 45 resident pool. The facility has a 13 resident control group and a 13 resident sample group.

5. American Association of Nurse Assessment, \$24,350

12 Month Pilot Study

The funds will be used to extend foundational work previously supported by Pioneer Network and Commonwealth Fund. The deliverable for the Pioneer Project includes "Professional Nurse Involvement in Nursing Home Culture Change: Overcoming Barriers, Advancing Opportunities (Burger et al., 2009)" and development and publication of nurse competencies to foster Person-Centered Care (Mueller, Burger, Rader, and Carter, 2013). Mueller and colleagues used the Delphi panel technique to draw on the expertise of expert gerontology nurses to develop these competencies. Identification of core clinical competencies to achieve a particular outcome is essential for any clinical practice as it begins to develop innovative, but evidence-based practices. Nurse competencies to foster Person-Centered Care define essential knowledge and skills required for an individual to demonstrate cognitively and behaviorally those nursing processes believed to promote specific clinical outcomes.

6. Dr. Cheryl Kruschke, \$18,135

Scholarships for Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs)

Funds requested provide scholarships to LPNs to participate in the Leadership in Culture Change Certificate Program. Individuals, who do not receive organizational support to participate in the certification program and express the desire to participate in the Leadership in Culture Change Certificate Program are eligible for the scholarships. It is anticipated that most, if not all, applicants for this certificate program will require some type of monetary assistance to defray the cost of education.

The Leadership in Culture Change Certificate Program will be offered as a pilot program in four separate modules. Each module will include 40 hours of education for a total of 160 hours. Grant funds provide scholarships to 15 students to participate in the certification program. Organizations sponsoring students to participate in this certification program are requested to provide support in lieu of a scholarship, which will increase the opportunity for more individuals to participate in the program.

7. Centura Health at Home, \$10,000

Support for Care of Alzheimer/Dementia (AD) Patients

The Namasté Alzheimer Center is using grant funding to support four activities that accommodate the progressive stages of AD and that will improve quality of life for residents. CMP funding is assisting in providing four key program elements: 1) life skills development; 2) decreasing depressive symptoms; 3) one-on-one activities and certification; and 4) music therapy to help improve the quality of life for Alzheimer's residents.

8. Southeast Colorado Hospital District, \$9,158

Linking Generations Through Technology

The purpose of the project is to promote the development of individualized activities and experiences that identify a resident's interests and needs. The residents, volunteers, students,

family and friends will be involved in an ongoing program that maintains the highest level of physical, cognitive and psychosocial well-being.

Funding supports an It's Never 2 Late system (iN2L). iN2L is an integrated system that includes a touch-screen computer, an extensive library of over 4,000 applications and content items, adaptive peripherals and equipment. iN2L has a unique combination of adaptive hardware and software to give aging and disabled individuals connection, choice, therapy, engagement, and enrichment activities.

The system is used as a rehabilitative tool with therapists from occupational therapy, speech therapy, physical therapy, and restorative therapy. During occupational therapy, patients develop the skills needed to increase independence in activities of daily living. The use of accessories such as the hand crank bicycle will help residents increase strength and endurance. iN2L allows speech therapy goals to be customized with the use of technology. It is adaptable to residents' disabilities and cognitive challenges. Meaningful therapy tasks could be continued out of therapy with staff, families, volunteers or independently. Physical therapy will adapt a plan to increase motor skills, standing balance, neuromuscular re-education, range of motion and coordination.

The system increases social interactions between residents, staff, families and the world. Residents can play interactive games independently or with other residents, access the internet including Skype, Facebook, email, and their own select web pages. This will bring our residents into the 21st century. This interaction will increase contact, decrease isolation and depression. It will also improve memory, and increase problem solving abilities.

9. Christian Living Communities, \$15,550

Enhanced Sleep Study

The project will serve 25 residents in year one allowing Christian Living Communities to test modalities and train staff so that it has a training module that may be readily disseminated to other nursing residences. Residents in year one will participate at their will and will wear bracelets that monitor sleep patterns. Results will inform staff training and residents will experience a person-centered lifestyle while they receive the care they need to provide the best possible care.

The project features the following elements: 1) an audit of current staffing patterns to assess inadvertent waking during normal sleep hours; 2) calming modalities that address rest issues; 3) pre-sleep rituals such as screen time, reading, and reading to, and breathing exercises; 4) noise reduction or cancelling machines and/or studies to inform best practices to provide quiet and peaceful sleeping environments while administering necessary care; 5) different pillow options to enhance resident sleep; 6) testing incontinence management and skin care to ensuring a comfortable and secure night sleep; 7) reducing light by darkening the room and exploring alternative lighting options when staff must enter a resident's suite; and 8) reviewing best nutrition options to induce quality, restful sleep.

Total award amount for SFY 2014-15: \$138,239.00

ATTACHMENT B

SFY 2015-16 NURSING HOME INNOVATIONS GRANT BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DISBURSEMENT FROM THE NURSING HOME CASH PENALTY FUND

1. Brookshire

Amount requested and recommended: \$28,287

Project summary: To implement a habilitation model of care for people living with dementia that looks at the strengths and abilities of the individual vs. attributing negative outcomes to the disease process. The focus is on providing food whenever and wherever the individual requests. A full day of person-centered dementia training will be provided to all staff, and nursing and administrative staff will be cross-trained in safe food handling. The community will have open dining, offer continental breakfast for early risers, and allow and encourage staff to eat with the residents in an effort to develop relationships and prevent weight loss. The funds will also be used to purchase equipment to create a pantry kitchen so that food and snacks can be prepared at any time. The timeline for this project will span two years.

2. Christian Living Communities – The Suites at Someren Glen Retirement Community

Amount requested and recommended: \$11,860.00

Project summary: The funds will be used to fund the training of staff in the “Comfort Matters” program for their “Skilled Memory Support” neighborhood. Comfort Matters teaches person-directed care and promotes living better with dementia by focusing on day-to-day comfort. Christian Living Communities (CLC) will contract with Beatitudes Campus to provide the training to all care team members which includes the residents, family members and all staff. The full cost of the training is \$23,720 and the remainder of the grant will be paid through trust proceeds for Someren Glen. At the end of the project, CLC and Beatitudes will write a white paper to be shared with other nursing homes to encourage their adoption of this model of care. There are several areas of anticipated improvement in quality of life that will be measured: 1) provision of

more liberalized diets; 2) improved pain management; 3) reduction in antipsychotic and anxiolytic medication use; 4) reduction in hospitalizations; 5) reduction of sun downing and rejection of care; and 5) increased staff retention. The timeline for this project is one year from date of approval.

3. Colorado Advanced Directive Consortium under fiscal sponsorship from Center for Improving Value in Health Care

Amount requested and recommended: \$20,941

Project summary: Grant funds will be used to launch a statewide educational campaign directed towards Colorado nursing homes, staff, residents and families on the revised MOST (medical orders for scope of treatment) form. The revisions to the form were the result of feedback from stakeholders and emerging national guidelines. In addition to addressing medical treatment options, the MOST process creates an opportunity for engagement with residents around care goals, quality of life, values, hopes and expectations. Advanced care planning for residents in nursing homes is the goal of this project and addresses end of life options and person-directed care. The project will have four components: 1) creation and development of updated educational materials; 2) delivery of educational programs to nursing homes and their partners; 3) development of long-term web-based repository for informational and instructional materials; and 4) evaluation (pre and post program surveys). Projected timeline for this project is June 2016.

4. Cottonwood Care Center

Amount requested: \$33,000 Amount recommended: \$3,000

Project summary: To develop and introduce a physical fitness routine for Cottonwood Care Center's residents. The Nursing Home Innovations Board is recommending approval of \$3,000. The Board is excluding the request for the purchase of a used van and the funding of a CNA or therapist position. The Board feels there are less expensive methods for transportation and staffing. Cottonwood will partner with the Brighton Recreation Center to use their facilities for swimming, walking, and the use of fitness equipment. The \$3,000 will be used for membership fees and used fitness clothing. The timeline for implementation of this project is one year from approval.

5. Eben Ezer Lutheran Care Center

Amount requested and recommended: \$13,104

Project summary: Grant funds will be used to educate staff on culture change and person-directed care by offering Certified Eden Associate Training. The Eden Alternative training is based on ten principles that focus on transforming nursing homes into places where people want to live and work and where the Elder is the center and care is directed by them. Eben Ezer Lutheran Care Center is located in Brush, a rural facility in northeast Colorado. In the past, the facility has sent two employees to training in Denver for the Eden Educator training and now want to utilize those staff members to train others in their facility, as well as offer the training to other rural facilities on the eastern plains. They have currently identified up to eight facilities that will benefit from this training. With grant funds, they will offer this training at no cost. Trainings will be offered fall 2015 and spring 2016. The project will be completed by June 2016.

6. Edu-Catering

Amount requested and recommended: \$20,000

Project summary: One-year extension of existing project "Encouraging Colorado to Eliminate Alarms and Prevent Falls by Engaging with Life". The goals for this project are as follows: 1) to create a data base of Colorado homes that are alarm free and those that still have alarms; 2) to offer a second year of the same project to nursing homes around the state; and 3) to make Colorado the very first state to be alarm free. Activities to be done during the one year extension: 1) initiate a telephone survey to every nursing home in Colorado to determine alarm use and to set a baseline measurement; and 2) conduct two workshops in six sites around the state. The timeline for this project is fiscal year 2015-2016.

7. Focus Consultation, LLC

Amount requested and recommended: \$54,000.00

Project summary: Intergenerational Summer Camp - This project proposes to improve the understanding of the aging process and the connection between youth and Elders in at least three

Colorado nursing homes on the Front Range, through a one week day camp program. The camp will occur at three identified nursing homes for approximately 10-20 children, ages 8-13. A group of Elders in each home will be trained to guide the experience and or parts of the camp with the youth attending camp. Focus Consultation and Edu-Catering will provide on-site facilitation, support and direction for each camp. An intergenerational camp facilitator's guide will be drafted at the onset of the project and revised after each of the camps based on lessons learned. The guide will be made available for other Colorado nursing homes through Focus Consultation and Edu-catering. Activities will include: developing an Elders story with youth and Elder presentations, verbal and visual; participation in nursing home activities; making snacks; baking with Elders; wisdom circles with Elders; gardening with Elders; story time; rest periods or naps; lunch and snacks; games and technology such as checkers, chess, bowling, basketball, hide 'n seek; Art projects such as jewelry and beads; play and time outdoors; career development; dance and exercise; movies and popcorn; dress up; plays and skits; and photography. Expected outcomes of the project include; youth gaining a positive perception of aging and the residents being able to share their life experience and wisdom with the younger generation. The timeline for three facilities to participate is June to August for two consecutive years beginning in 2016.

8. Mirasol - The Green House Homes at Mirasol

Amount requested and recommended: \$7,521.85

Project summary: This proposal is to fund an intergenerational program linked to gardening, in particular the concept of farm to table, which is a component piece to Mirasol's, "Recapturing Valuable Skills/Enhancing Elders Lives" program. The program focuses on the benefits of gardening by pairing elders with school-aged children. The elders will teach the children how to prepare the soil, plant the seeds and to tend the gardens so that they reap the harvest. The children will then learn how to prepare meals using the food they have grown, as well as teaching the children how to preserve vegetables through canning. Expected outcomes include improved health and well-being of the elders from having a sense of purpose by teaching the younger generation. The timeline for this project will be from the end of May 2016 through November 2016.

9. North Star Rehabilitation and Care Community

Amount requested and recommended: \$11,279

Project summary: North Star Community is located in a low-income neighborhood in west Denver, and is home to over 80 people. The average age of the residents at North Star is 56. The home predominantly serves a younger population of people living with multiple sclerosis and/or chronic mental illness. Music has played a large part in the well-being of the residents at North Star. As disease processes progress and the residents continue to experience decline, the community has been challenged with finding innovative ways of creating a music program that will provide the residents with continued opportunities to experience and participate in music, which has a demonstrable, positive impact on the residents' state of well-being. North Star has proposed a diverse and comprehensive music project that includes certification in the Music and Memory program and individualized music through iPods, voice and group singing and breath control lessons for residents, monthly facilitation for shared music events, and daily music in the common areas of the home. The overall project seeks to build a vital, varied, and individualized program which supports growth, exploration, self-expression and community through music. The project will be based on "Alive Inside" – The Music and Memory Program. This program has been proven to improve mood, decrease behaviors, and decrease use of psychoactive medications. The timeline is to purchase equipment immediately after grant approval and obtain staff certification by the first quarter following approval.

10. Southeast Colorado Hospital District

Amount requested and recommended: \$15,000

Project summary: Grant Funds will be used for dental equipment that will be housed in the Springfield Medical Clinic. This will allow SECH to expand their Specialty Clinic Services to include dental services for their community. The link between access to dental care and overall health is well documented. The Long Term Care Center and Alzheimer's Care residents will receive better dental care and experience higher quality of life as a result of treatment available on the same campus as the resident facilities. Recent changes in Medicaid have opened the door for more senior citizens to have economic access to dental care, but they still need locational access to a dentist. Having to travel long distances to receive routine dental care negatively impacts the oral health of the elderly. Locating a dental office in the Medical Clinic offers a holistic approach

to patient centered care. Medical conditions that are a result of oral health problems can be addressed jointly by Medical providers and by the Dental provider. The total cost of the project is \$75,000. This grant request is for \$15,000, the balance of funding is coming from three other sources and in-kind donations. The timeline is for equipment to be purchased and delivered within two weeks of grant approval with the goal of opening the full clinic in the fall of 2015.

11. Spanish Peaks Veterans Community Living Center – Walsenburg

Amount requested and recommended: \$9,872

Project summary: Grant Funds will be used to establish a Certified Nurse Assistant course in the remote area of Huerfano County, where there is currently no program to meet this need. It would allow for the purchase of an established and fully state-approved curriculum, two geriatric mannequins and textbooks and workbooks for fifteen students. Spanish Peaks is supplementing the costs by supplying an instructor, supplies and the classroom space. The goal is to improve staffing and staff stability, in addition to leading to consistent assignment. Consistent staff assignment has been shown to increase resident and family satisfaction, as well as employee satisfaction and retention. The elders benefit by being able to form meaningful relationships and having their individual preferences recognized and honored. The timeline is to purchase appropriate supplies immediately upon grant approval and to be accredited by the state by December 31, 2015.