



**COLORADO**  
Energy Office

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Office of Gov. John Hickenlooper

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## **Colorado Energy Office helps secure \$2.77M in grants and guaranteed utility savings to save rural community's only nursing care facility**

### ***Elderly residents saved from 100-mile relocation and 100 jobs preserved***

DENVER – May 18, 2016 – Colorado Energy Office (CEO) secures \$2.77 million in grants and guaranteed utility cost savings to help implement critical building infrastructure and energy efficiency improvement projects at Hillcrest Care Center, a community nursing home in Wray, Colo.

“The project highlights the benefit of state agencies, a private sector energy services partner and private foundations coming together to extend the life of a care facility vital to the community,” said Jeff Ackermann, Colorado Energy Office Director.

In 2014, the Hillcrest Care Center faced closure, which would have forced 70 elderly residents to move over 100 miles to the closest nursing care facility. Wray Community District Hospital acquired the care center, but faced critical and costly building repairs to keep the facility open. They turned to Apollo Solutions Group (Apollo), an energy services company pre-qualified by CEO, to help identify building improvements, and potential energy and water savings.

“The Colorado Energy Office’s Energy Performance Contracting program partners not only helped with critical building and energy savings improvements, they helped save an important community resource. And they preserved more than a building. Over 100 local jobs were saved, and elderly patients will not have to be relocated far away from families and loved ones,” said Jennie Sullivan, CEO, Wray Community District Hospital.

Following a comprehensive investment grade energy audit, Apollo identified specific high priority structural, heating, cooling and lighting improvements and calculated the utility cost savings generated by the new energy efficient equipment. The annual utility cost savings calculation, guaranteed through an energy performance contract with Apollo, was used to secure capital investments to pay for the improvements. Total utility and maintenance cost savings over the 15-year financing period totaled \$990,000. Apollo identified and secured additional grants to fund the projects, including a \$1.25 million Department of Local Affairs grant, \$500,000 from the Kitzmiller-Bales Trust and \$30,000 from El Pomar Foundation.

The project marks a significant milestone for the Colorado Energy Office, and energy performance contracting nationally, as Colorado becomes the fourth state in the nation to help facilitate over \$500 million in private sector investments in public facility energy efficiency projects since the mid-1990s. The investments are backed by nearly \$31 million in annual utility cost savings guarantees.

For more information on the EPC Program, visit  
<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/energyoffice/public-energy-performance-contracting>

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### **About Energy Performance Contracting**

Since the mid-1990s, 143 public jurisdictions have worked with CEO's energy services companies (ESCOs) to identify energy and water efficiency opportunities and \$31 million in annual utility savings. An ESCO conducts a high-quality investment-grade energy audit and calculates a utility cost savings guarantee, which is used to secure capital construction funds for its client. The ESCO implements the improvement project, then measures and verifies that the savings guarantee has been achieved over time. EPC projects have upgraded mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems in public school and university buildings, veteran's facilities, libraries, parks, community centers, wastewater treatment plants, prisons and other government buildings in communities across 75 percent of Colorado's counties. Visit

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/energyoffice/public-energy-performance-contracting>

### **About Apollo Solutions Group**

Apollo Solutions Group (Apollo) is a Colorado Energy Office pre-qualified Energy Services Company (ESCO). Apollo works alongside leadership with K-12 schools, higher education institutions, hospitals, cities, counties, and other public entities saving each thousands of dollars annually in energy costs while drastically improving their infrastructure, occupant comfort, and financial performance. Typically these projects require little or no cash outlay. The greater majority of the project costs are paid with the energy and operational savings. Visit [www.apollosolutionsgroup.com](http://www.apollosolutionsgroup.com)

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