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Contact: Laura Bond, Senior Communications Officer
lbond@denverfoundation.org, 303.996.6490

THE COLORADO HEALTH ACCESS FUND AWARDS $8.4 MILLION IN GRANTS
Funding supports increased access to behavioral health care statewide

Denver—The Denver Foundation is pleased to announce that 16 grants totaling $8,422,407 were distributed by the Colorado Health Access Fund in September. These grants will support increased access to behavioral health care across the state.

Founded at The Denver Foundation with an anonymous $40 million gift, the Colorado Health Access Fund (CHA Fund) seeks to increase access to behavioral health care statewide. Since August 2015, the CHA Fund has distributed more than $38 million across Colorado. As of July, the Fund had increased access to care for 74,000 Coloradans.

Grant awards range from a one-year capital grant to support expanded therapy and counseling rooms in a safety net clinic in the Metro area to a three-year grant to support an increase in behavioral telehealth in Cortez. This year’s cohort also includes two grants to expand Medication Assisted Therapy (MAT) in jails in Denver and Larimer counties.

For the first time, the CHA Fund made a multi-year grant to support behavioral health provider loan repayment through the state Primary Care Office at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. This award addresses workforce shortage issues by supporting clinicians around the state, paying back a portion of their student loans in return for service in an area with a health-provider shortage.

“The CHA Fund is supporting important work at a time of major developments in the field of behavioral health in Colorado,” said Dace West, Vice President of Community Impact at The Denver Foundation. “We are grateful for the many partners and organizations that share our commitment to broadening access to behavioral health care across the state.”

The next Request for Proposals will open in December. Applications will be due in early spring 2020.

2019 Colorado Health Access Fund Grants

Children’s Hospital Colorado

A capital grant to renovate the Potomac Street site to create more space for behavioral health treatment and youth outpatient services.
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment—Primary Care Office
A four-year grant to support loan repayment for behavioral health providers serving in health provider shortage areas around Colorado, with at least half of the dollars supporting rural locations.

Community Dental Clinic/The PIC Place
A three-year grant to add behavioral health provider capacity to this integrated care clinic in rural Colorado.

Denver Children’s Advocacy Center
A three-year grant to expand behavioral health capacity to support immigrant and refugee families.

Denver Health & Hospitals
A three-year grant to expand the Jail to Community Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program to support behavioral health and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) in the Denver County jail.

Health District of Northern Larimer County
A three-year grant to implement a jail-based MAT program in the Larimer County jail.

Health Solutions
A three-year grant to support MAT providers in southern Colorado.

Inner City Health Center
A capital grant to support expanded space for behavioral health care at the integrated care center in central Denver.

Mesa Developmental Services
A capital grant to renovate and expand space for behavioral health treatment for adults and children with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.

Olathe Community Clinic/River Valley Family Health Center
A three-year grant to add behavioral health provider capacity to this Federally Qualified Health Center in rural Colorado.

Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network
A three-year grant to expand the social service behavioral health program inside the ICE Detention Center in Aurora.
Rocky Mountain Youth Medical & Nursing Consultants/Every Child Pediatrics

A two-year grant to increase access to behavioral health care with the addition of a new bilingual clinician.

Saint Joseph Hospital

A three-year grant to expand SUD and MAT services at the Caritas Clinic.

Servicios de La Raza

A three-year grant to expand bilingual/bicultural behavioral health capacity to support the Latinx community in Metro Denver.

Southwest Colorado Mental Health Center

A three-year grant to expand behavioral telehealth provider capacity to Montezuma County.

SummitStone Health Partners

A capital grant to support the renovation and creation of behavioral health clinic rooms at the new hub of services in Fort Collins.

About The Denver Foundation

The Denver Foundation is a community foundation that inspires people and mobilizes resources to improve life in Metro Denver. In 2018, the Foundation and its donors awarded nearly $80 million in grants. The Denver Foundation has three roles: stewarding an endowment to meet current and future needs for Metro Denver, working with community leaders to address the core challenges that face the community, and managing more than 1,000 charitable funds on behalf of individuals, families, and businesses. For more information, visit www.denverfoundation.org.

About The Colorado Health Access Fund

Providing behavioral health services in Colorado, especially in rural and underserved communities, is no easy endeavor. The Colorado Health Access Fund was created in 2015 with an anonymous $40 million gift as a Field of Interest fund at The Denver Foundation. The intent of the fund is to support programs/activities that generally increase access to health care and strive to improve health outcomes for populations in Colorado with high health-care needs. The fund will help to ensure health care services are equitably available to all Coloradans with high health needs by distributing the funds to organizations throughout the state. The Colorado Health Access Fund will distribute approximately $5 million per year through 2022. The most recent evaluation report is available on the website.