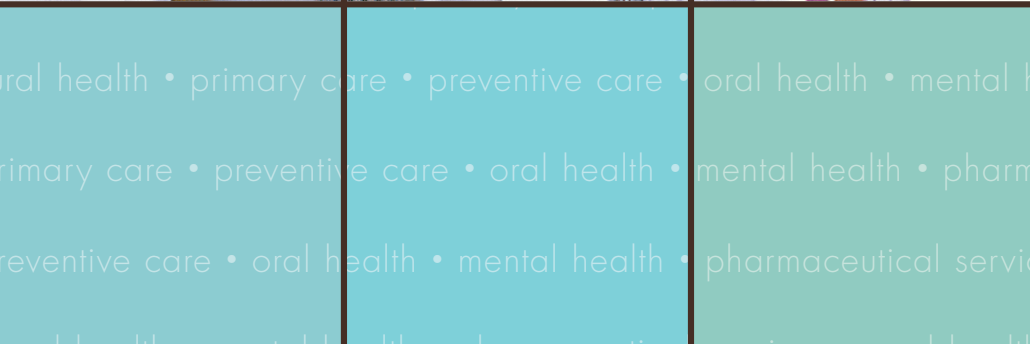
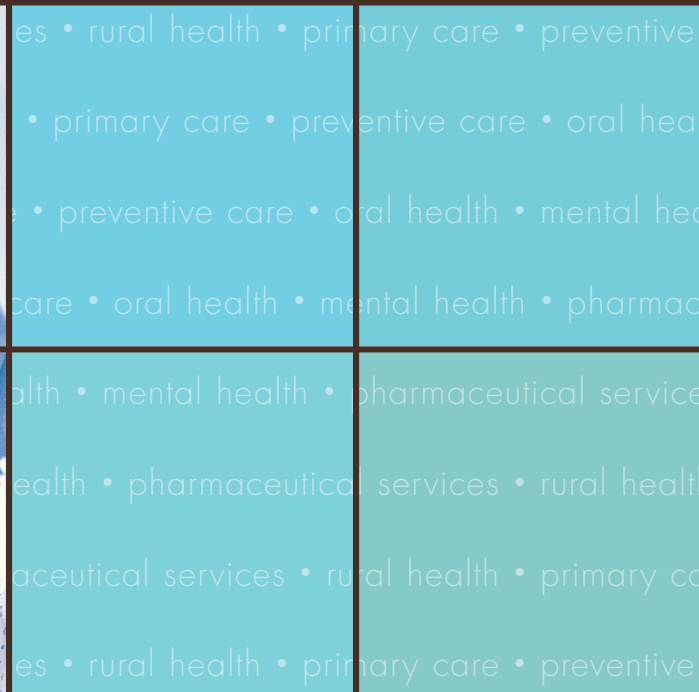




# HEALTH PROFESSIONS INITIATIVE

*Strengthening the delivery of health care services*



# A NEED FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS



According to the Colorado Occupational Employment Outlook, significant increases in demand for health professionals are highly likely throughout Colorado due to an increasing and aging population, and the existing shortage in the health services workforce.

Although there are many health care providers in Colorado, their distribution is uneven. Some counties have few or no doctors, dentists or mental health providers to serve their residents – especially those without health insurance, with low-incomes, or language or transportation barriers may experience difficulty accessing services, even in areas where health care providers are available.

(Source: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment)

Out of 64 Colorado counties, 51 are designated as health professional shortage areas and 45 are designated as medically underserved areas.

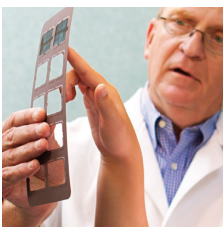
Colorado has an 11% shortage of nurses – twice the national average – with a 31% shortage projected by 2020. Exacerbating this challenge across health professions in both urban and rural areas, the population of Colorado during this period is expected to grow 16%, while the population aged 65 and older is projected to grow 113%.

(Source: Health Resources Service Administration)

JOHN R. MORAN, JR.  
President and CEO  
of The Colorado Trust

*“To meet the severe shortage of health professionals across Colorado, it’s essential for health care providers and educators to boost their efforts to train health professionals of all disciplines and to promote collaborative partnerships that result in long-term change.”*

## HEALTH PROFESSIONS INITIATIVE



The Colorado Trust’s three-year (2005-2008), \$10.2 million Health Professions Initiative provides funding for programs designed to increase the number of primary, dental and mental health care professionals, as well as pharmacists.

The Trust has awarded grants to 22 organizations across Colorado – including hospitals, clinics, universities, colleges and community health care foundations – to support and expand existing programs, and to develop new programs that increase education, training and advancement opportunities, especially for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds and in rural areas. By stimulating partnerships among community-based organizations, schools and health professionals, The Trust aims to help meet the statewide demand for more health care professionals.

\$1.4 million of this initiative is earmarked for the Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC). Since 2000, The Colorado Trust has funded the Colorado Rural Outreach Project (CROP) to support the recruitment and retention of primary health care practitioners in rural Colorado communities by administering health professions programs of the Colorado Rural Recruitment and Retention Network. Through the grant awarded to the CRHC, the CROP program will be expanded to include mental, dental and pharmacy health professions programs.

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# health professional:

**a person who preserves or improves the health of individuals, or cares for individuals who are injured, sick, disabled or infirm.**

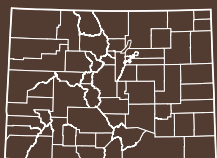
The delivery of modern health care depends on an expanding group of highly trained professionals coming together as a multi-disciplinary team to contribute to the welfare of others.

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# GRANTEES OF THE COLORADO TRUST'S HEALTH PROFESSIONS INITIATIVE



Adams State College

Aims Community College Foundation

Arapahoe Community College Foundation, Inc.

Colorado Community Health Network

Commission on Family Medicine

Delta County Memorial Hospital Foundation

Denver Health Foundation

Front Range Community College Foundation

Heart of the Rockies Regional Medical Center Foundation

Kiowa County Hospital District

Kremmling Memorial Hospital District

Mesa State College

Morgan Community College

North Range Behavioral Health

Otero Junior College

Pueblo Community College

Red Rocks Community College

Shalom Park

Southeastern Colorado Area Health Education Center

University of Colorado at Denver and the Health Sciences Center, School of Medicine

University of Colorado, School of Dentistry

University of Colorado, School of Pharmacy

An independent evaluation of the Health Professions Initiative is being conducted by the Center for Research Strategies to determine if the number of health professionals in Colorado increases as a result of this initiative, and to explore and document the barriers and facilitators to increasing the numbers of health professionals in Colorado communities.

As part of the evaluation, the Colorado Health Institute is developing a publicly accessible, web-based database containing information about health

care providers in Colorado, as well as demographics and other data related to transitioning into a health professions career.

For more information about The Colorado Trust's Health Professions Initiative, contact Laurel Petralia, Program Officer, [laurel@coloradotrusted.org](mailto:laurel@coloradotrusted.org). For information about the evaluation, contact Nancy B. Csuti, Director of Evaluation, [nancy@coloradotrusted.org](mailto:nancy@coloradotrusted.org).

*The Colorado Trust is a grantmaking foundation dedicated to advancing the health and well-being of the people of Colorado.*

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