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TRUST NAMES 12 ADDITIONAL GRANTEEES UNDER ITS \$13.1 MILLION EFFORT TO REDUCE RACIAL DISPARITIES IN HEALTH CARE

Denver, CO – Despite Colorado’s generally positive health status, nearly a third of the state’s population – comprising Latinos, African-Americans, American Indians, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders – is disproportionately affected by disease, disability and death. According to an Institute of Medicine report, evidence suggests that a trend in bias, prejudice and stereotyping by health care providers may contribute to differences in care among these populations.

To reduce these disparities in Colorado, The Colorado Trust developed “Equality in Health,” a \$13.1 million, seven-year (2005-2012) initiative. Twelve new grantees were announced today. They join 14 additional grantees – nonprofit organizations and educational institutions – that began work under this initiative two years ago. Together, their efforts will help health care providers and educators gain the skills necessary to consider unique cultural backgrounds as they provide care to reduce racial and ethnic disparities.

“No single solution to health care can meet the needs of all people,” said Irene M. Ibarra, President and CEO of The Colorado Trust. “When health care providers expand their capacity to provide care to individuals of diverse cultural backgrounds, they can deliver more effective care.”

In Colorado, people of Hispanic origin make up 19.5% of the state’s population and have the highest death rate of any group from diabetes, chronic liver disease, cervical cancer and injuries related to motor vehicle crashes. African Americans comprise 4.1% of Colorado’s population and consistently have the highest rate of death from several diseases including heart disease, breast cancer, colorectal cancer, HIV/AIDS, lung cancer, prostate cancer, infant mortality and perinatal deaths. Asian American/Pacific Islanders make up 2.6% of Colorado’s population and suffer high death rates from tuberculosis (8.8 times the state average) and hepatitis B (10 times the state average). And the American Indian population, which comprises 1.1% of the state’s population, has high death rates for diabetes and chronic liver disease.

The focus of work to be conducted by the 12 new grantees will address a variety of needs and diverse populations, including: culturally competent health care, school-based health, mental and dental health care, and stronger translation and interpretation programs to help improve services for diverse populations. Efforts underway by the initial 14 grantees include putting in

place a curriculum to train students how to be culturally sensitive clinicians and a focus on hiring diverse staff members who reflect the communities they serve.

All grantees under this initiative will receive grants averaging \$60,000 annually for five years. The newly named grantees are:

1. Denver Indian Family Resource Center (*Metro Denver*)
2. Fort Collins Family Medicine Residency Program, Poudre Valley Hospital (*Fort Collins*)
3. Inner City Health Center (*Metro Denver*)
4. Jefferson Center for Mental Health (*Clear Creek, Gilpin and Jefferson counties*)
5. Kids in Need of Dentistry (*Metro Denver and Eastern Plains*)
6. Montrose County School District (*Montrose County*)
7. Prowers Medical Center (*Prowers, Baca, Bent and Kiowa counties*)
8. Second Wind Fund (*Metro Denver and Boulder, Douglas, El Paso, Mesa and Park counties*)
9. Total Oral Prevention Strategies “TOPS” (*Clayton, Cole, North Capitol Hill and Whittier neighborhoods*)
10. Upper Arkansas Area Council of Governments (*Chaffee, Custer, Fremont and Lake counties*)
11. Valley-Wide Health Systems, Inc. (*Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Rio Grande and Saguache counties*)
12. Western Colorado Health Network, d/b/a Western Colorado AIDS Project (*Archuleta, Delta, Dolores, Eagle, Garfield, Grand, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Jackson, La Plata, Lake, Mesa, Montrose, Ouray, Pitkin, Rio Blanco, Routt, San Juan, San Miguel and Summit counties*)

The Colorado Foundation for Families and Children serves as the statewide coordinating agency for this initiative. They provide day-to-day management and technical assistance to each grantee in the areas of cultural competency, program development and program implementation.

The Association for the Study and Development of Community is conducting an independent evaluation of this initiative to determine whether the cultural competency of grantees changes over time, as well as the conditions that should be in place to bring about positive changes in organizational capacity to serve diverse populations.

For additional information about The Colorado Trust and its Equality in Health Initiative, including a full listing the 14 grantees named in the first round of funding and the specific focus of work for each of the 26 grantees, please visit www.coloradotruster.org or contact us.

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The Colorado Trust is a grantmaking foundation dedicated to advancing the health and well-being of the people of Colorado. Visit www.coloradotruster.org to learn more about The Colorado Trust and its grantmaking initiatives. Please note: “The” in The Colorado Trust name is part of the foundation’s name. Please do not drop or lowercase the T.