



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

NEWS RELEASE

Office of Communications
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

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National Public Health Improvement funding to be used at state, local, tribal and territorial levels

DENVER – The Office of Planning and Partnerships at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment has received an award of \$400,000 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to continue its work to make fundamental changes and enhancements in health department organizations and their practices to improve the delivery and impact of public health services.

This grant comes from the Prevention and Public Health Fund created by the Affordable Care Act of 2010, and is administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support.

“A strong, efficient, effective public health system is critical for building a healthy society,” said CDC Director Thomas R. Frieden. “Investing preventative services, system improvement and policy-level interventions in an atmosphere of accountability is essential to reducing the burden of health care costs in the future.”

The purpose of the grant is to achieve the following:

- increase health departments’ program operations and efficiencies of to ensure seamless and coordinated services
- prepare health departments to apply for accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board, a national program launching in September 2011
- build upon the national network of performance improvement managers by sharing and using evidence-based policies and practices for improving the public health system

Kathleen Matthews, director of the Office of Planning and Partnerships at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, said, “This funding helps us continue to work with local public health partners in their planning efforts, while at the same time helping to fund operational improvements and efficiencies at the department.”

Since the passage of Colorado’s Public Health Improvement Act in 2008, the Office of Planning and Partnership has been working closely with public health agencies across the state to guide and assist them in the completion of public health improvement plans as required by the act.

This funding will be used to support both state and local initiatives. It will provide direct funding to local public health agencies to assist in their public health improvement planning efforts, working with a local public health data specialist at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. In addition, this continued funding supports a performance improvement manager and LEAN quality improvement initiatives across the department. Under the leadership of Dr. Chris Urbina, executive director and chief medical officer at the department, significant efforts are underway within the department to improve effectiveness and efficiency.

“These investments propel public health toward a new era of productivity and effectiveness,” said Dr. Judith A. Monroe, CDC’s deputy director for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support. “We will be supporting health departments in strengthening systems that are critical for detecting and responding to unexpected disease outbreaks or other threats to the public’s health.”

This award is one of many the Prevention and Public Health Fund created under the Affordable Care Act of 2010. The money is for Year Two of a five-year cooperative agreement program known as the National Public Health Improvement Initiative – Strengthening Public Health Infrastructure for Improved Health Outcomes.

For more information, please visit www.cdc.gov/ostlts and <http://www.cdc.gov/ostlts/nphii/>.