



Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

# NEWS RELEASE

Office of Communications  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

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**Colorado Health Service Corps accepting applications from health care professionals for education loan repayment – Nov. 1 to Nov. 30**  
*Program awards \$1.7 million in loan repayment*

DENVER—The Colorado Health Service Corps, administered by the Primary Care Office at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, is accepting applications from health care professionals from Nov. 1 to Nov. 30 for education loan repayment.

Primary care physicians, psychiatrists and general dentists may be eligible for educational loan debt forgiveness of up to \$105,000; physician assistants, advanced practice nurses and licensed mental health professionals may be eligible for up to \$60,000 in loan debt forgiveness; and dental hygienists may be eligible for up to \$22,500 in loan debt forgiveness.

In July 2011 the program awarded a total of nearly \$1.7 million in loan repayment funds to 30 health care professionals serving Colorado's medically underserved. The Colorado Health Service Corps has granted loan repayment to health care professionals in some of the state's most underserved communities.

To participate in the Colorado Health Service Corps, health professionals must be employed or seeking full-time employment in an outpatient primary care practice in an area of Colorado with a health professional shortage. Successful applicants will demonstrate a commitment to caring for underserved people and agree to a term of service of three years. Primary health providers who practice in rural and urban underserved communities may qualify.

For more information on the Colorado Health Service Corps, including eligibility requirements and an online application, visit <http://www.coloradohealthservicecorps.org> or call 303-692-2466.

The following health professionals have started their service to Colorado:

Aimee Laragga	Dentist	Valley-Wide Health Systems	Alamosa
Mikaila Pence	Physician	San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center	Alamosa
Lori Kret	Licensed Clinical Social Worker	Colorado West Mental Health	Aspen
Renu Boatright	Physician	Rocky Mountain Youth Clinics	Aurora, Denver
Katherine Scholand	Dentist	Metro Provide Community Network	Aurora
Chelsea Beck	Licensed Professional Counselor	Fremont Correctional Facility	Canon City
Kristin Robinson	Licensed Professional Counselor	Fremont Correctional Facility	Canon City
Amelia Virostko	Physician	Peak Vista Community Health Centers	Colorado Springs
Heather Welfare	Physician	Peak Vista Community Health Centers	Colorado Springs
Tharakesh Palanisamy	Licensed Professional Counselor	Axis Health System	Cortez
Kimberly Reeves	Licensed Clinical Social Worker	Colorado West Mental Health Center	Craig
Peggy Sammons	Licensed Professional Counselor	Colorado West Mental Health Center	Craig
Olixn Adams	Physician	Rio Grande Hospital Clinic	Del Norte
Betsy Nordstrom	Licensed Professional Counselor	Center for Mental Health	Delta
Ana Flores	Physician	Denver Health & Hospital- Webb Clinic	Denver
Rosa Maria Nunez	Physician Assistant	Denver Health & Hospital- Westwood	Denver
Brian Arens	Licensed Professional Counselor	Axis Health System	Durango
Jeffrey Flasschoen	Physician Assistant	Plains Medical Center	Flagler
Valerie Etter	Licensed Clinical Social Worker	Colorado West Mental Health Center	Grand Junction
Rocky Martellaro	Licensed Professional Counselor	Colorado West Mental Health Center	Grand Junction
Melissa Richey	Nurse Practitioner	Plains Medical Center	Limon
Louise Marie Walsh	Physician	Sunrise Community Health Center	Loveland
Jessica Cummings	Nurse Practitioner	Spanish Peaks Mental Health Center	Pueblo
Sharon Mondragon	Licensed Professional Counselor	Spanish Peaks Mental Health Center	Pueblo
Carrie Neumann	Licensed Professional Counselor	Spanish Peaks Mental Health Center	Pueblo
LeAnna Pacheco	Licensed Professional Counselor	Spanish Peaks Mental Health Center	Pueblo
Amanda Capps	Licensed Clinical Social Worker	West Central Mental Health Center	Salida

Stacey White	Nurse Practitioner	Plains Medical Center	Strasburg
Tamar Rubin	Licensed Professional Counselor	Spanish Peaks Mental Health Center	Trinidad
Michelle Morrissey	Marriage & Family Therapist	Spanish Peaks Mental Health Center	Walsenburg

The Colorado Health Service Corps is administered by the Primary Care Office at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment with funding from the Colorado Health Foundation, the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the state of Colorado, The Colorado Trust and the Comprecare Foundation.

The Colorado Health Foundation works to make Colorado the healthiest state in the nation by investing in grants and initiatives to health-related nonprofits that focus on increasing the number of Coloradans with health insurance; ensuring they have access to quality, coordinated care; and encouraging healthy living. For more information, please visit [www.ColoradoHealth.org](http://www.ColoradoHealth.org).

The Colorado Trust is a statewide grant-making foundation dedicated to achieving access to health for all Coloradans ([www.coloradotrust.org](http://www.coloradotrust.org)).

The Comprecare Foundation aims to encourage and assist specific health-related programs and to make grants to support the activities of organizations that are designed to advance and promote health care education, the delivery of health care services, and the improvement of community health and welfare. For more information, please visit: <http://www.comprecarefoundation.org>.

The Primary Care Office reduces health inequity in Colorado by improving access to primary health services. The office invests in health professionals who seek to serve Colorado's medically underserved people.