

Family Practice recipient of rural health care grant

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Family Practice of Holyoke is the recipient of grant money to help strengthen health care delivery in rural communities, announced Gov. Bill Ritter.

Gov. Ritter announced Tuesday, June 1 the Colorado Rural Health Care Grant Council has awarded \$1.075 million in its third round of grant funding.

The Council awarded 28 grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000 to physical, mental and oral health care providers in 24 counties.

Family Practice of Holyoke was the recipient of \$16,534. MMH administrator John Ayoub said the money will be used to purchase better and supplemental equipment for the family practice Rural Health Clinic.

“We’re very excited about the award and the opportunity to purchase new equipment to better serve our community,” Ayoub said.

The Colorado Rural Health Care Grant Program was established in August 2007 and is funded with \$7.5 million from UnitedHealthcare that is being distributed over six years.

Grantees include Certified Rural Health Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers, public health departments, public and private health clinics, oral health clinics and mental health clinics. The grants will support health information technology, construction and remodeling projects, equipment and staff training.

“As we continue toward our goal of providing access to high quality, affordable health care to all Coloradans, it is critical that we support our rural communities,” Gov. Bill Ritter said. “These investments will have a significant impact on care and on people’s lives from Montrose to Kit Carson.”

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“UnitedHealthcare is committed to investing in a healthier Colorado and expanding quality health care services to rural communities throughout the state,” said Beth Soberg, CEO, UnitedHealthcare of Colorado. “By supporting community organizations serving rural Colorado, together, we are able to address the critical needs of the underserved population and help improve the health care delivery system statewide.”

The Colorado Rural Health Care Grant Council is co-chaired by Colorado’s Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Ned Calonge and UnitedHealthcare’s Vice President of Health Care Strategies, Dr. Jacqueline Stiff and includes health care consumers, rural health care providers and representatives from the Governor’s Office, Division of Insurance at the Department of Regulatory Agencies, Department of Health Care Policy and Financing and Department of Local Affairs.

The Colorado Rural Health Center, Colorado’s nonprofit state office of rural health, administers the grant program. For more information on the program, contact Shelly Collings, sc@coruralhealth.org or 720-248-2742.