

County Express receives medical grant

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Chris Wiant, CEO for the Caring for Colorado Foundation, has announced a grant of \$42,000 for County Express to provide non-emergent medical transportation in Northeast Colorado.

In announcing the grant award, Wiant noted, “That mission of the Caring for Colorado Foundation is to ensure that the people of Colorado are the healthiest in the nation. Your project will help us take a step toward fulfilling that mission.”

Executive director Larry Worth noted the Northeastern Colorado Association of Local Governments has identified transportation as a barrier to maximizing health, especially among the undeserved populations. The grant from the Caring for Colorado Foundation will assist County Express in providing non-emergent medical transportation in Northeastern Colorado.

Because of the distance required to travel to medical facilities for appointments and medical treatment, the following objectives were established for the Caring for Colorado grant:

—County Express will provide transportation for a minimum of 25 clients from their home communities to the Regional Medical Center in Sterling and the medical facilities in Northeastern Colorado. These services will be provided in a culturally appropriate manner and in a time frame that is consistent with the needs of the individuals served.

—County Express will provide non-emergent medical transportation for a minimum of 100 non-emergent medical trips in order to access medical services which are unavailable in Northeastern Colorado. This includes trips to Children’s Hospital and other front range medical facilities, as well as transportation to regionally available eye care, dental care and other medical services.

In order to insure ongoing needs assessment, program development and funding support, a Non Emergent Medical Transportation Advisory Committee will be developed in the region. Representatives will be sought from all six counties in the region. Representatives will be solicited from Banner Health, County Express, Social Services, mental health, grassroots organizations, the faith-based community and other interested community members.

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The advisory committee will assist County Express in conducting a yearly needs assessment concerning the availability of non-emergent medical transportation and will note any gaps in service. The advisory committee will provide input into the development of a plan of action to fill any gaps that are noted as part of the yearly assessment.

Worth noted, "From January to December 2011, County Express provided 100,678 trips for the residents of Northeastern Colorado. A minimum of 23,094 trips (22.8 percent of the trips provided by County Express) were specifically for non-emergent medical transportation to medical sites in Sterling, Northeastern Colorado, Greeley, Fort Collins, Loveland and the Front Range.

"The Caring for Colorado Foundation fills gaps created by the limitations from other funding sources. We are pleased that the Caring for Colorado Foundation will partner with County Express to assist with non-emergent medical transportation for clients who are unable to meet the restrictions or the income guidelines of Medicaid, who are unable to pay the established rate for County Express."

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