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CARING FOR COLORADO FOUNDATION AWARDS \$760,363 IN ORAL HEALTH GRANTS; COMPLETES \$5 MILLION, 5-YEAR INITIATIVE

DENVER – Caring for Colorado Foundation has awarded \$760,363 in oral health grants to 11 Colorado non-profit organizations. This completes the Foundation’s five-year Oral Health Improvement Project in which 44 different organizations in Colorado were awarded \$5 million dollars to strengthen the oral health safety net and promote oral health for underserved children.

In July of this year, the foundation’s Board of Directors approved Phase II of the Oral Health Improvement Project by allocating another \$5 million in funding over a five-year period beginning in 2007. This new funding opportunity will be aimed at strengthening Colorado’s oral health safety net, preventing oral disease in children and advocating for policy changes to make oral health care more accessible to underserved Coloradans.

The 2006 Caring for Colorado Oral Health Improvement Project grant awards were to the following organizations:

Centennial Area Health Education Center (\$89,255), to support the provision of preventive dental services to children in Lincoln, Cheyenne and Kit Carson counties.

Colorado Community Health Network (\$3,000), to support printing costs of educational materials for the Colorado Oral Health Network, a statewide oral health safety net coalition.

Colorado Foundation for Health and the Environment (\$3,120), to support Oral Health Awareness Colorado, a statewide coalition, in developing an advocacy agenda to address the oral health crisis for underserved Coloradans.

Dental Aid, Inc. (\$96,380), to support the Bright Smiles for Bright Futures Program aimed at improving the oral health status of pregnant women and their children.

Denver Health Foundation (\$104,745), to support the Denver Public Schools Dental Sealant Program at 70 elementary schools in DPS.

High Plains Community Health Center, Inc. (\$36,850), to purchase equipment to expand its oral health services for people in Lamar and surrounding communities.

Hinsdale County Public Health and Community Services (\$45,079), to develop the Lake City Dental Clinic, a new dental resource in the community.

Inner City Health Center (\$100,000), to support the provision of adult and pediatric oral health services for uninsured and under-insured people in the Denver-metro area.

Kids in Need of Dentistry (\$123,000), to expand the availability preventive services for young children at KIND's Denver-area clinics

Rural Communities Resource Center (\$88,280), to support the provision of preventive dental services to children and pregnant women in Yuma, Washington and Sedgwick counties.

Summit Community Care Clinic (\$70,654), to equip two dental operatories at the Summit Community Care Clinic which will allow them to begin providing dental services to their clientele.

Request for proposals and grant guidelines for Phase II of Caring for Colorado's Oral Health Improvement Project will be available in the spring of 2007 at www.caringforcolorado.org or by calling the Foundation's offices at 720-524-0770.

Caring for Colorado is a non-profit foundation that promotes and serves the health care needs of the citizens of Colorado. It supports programs to address community-identified health needs, including oral health, mental health, physical health, prevention and access to care.

Since beginning its grant program in 2001, Caring for Colorado has awarded more than \$35 million in communities across Colorado to increase access to care for underserved populations.

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