



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Contact: [Linda Reiner](#), Vice President, Caring for Colorado Foundation, 720-524-0770

Caring for Colorado and the Colorado Health Foundation Partner to Expand Access to Oral Health Care

Denver, CO – Caring for Colorado Foundation, together with its funding partner, the Colorado Health Foundation, are happy to announce grant awards for the [SMILES Dental Project](#). The following organizations will each receive three years of funding in the amount of \$500,000 to pilot test a new dental care delivery model in Colorado, including:

- Dental Aid, Inc. serving Boulder County
- Salud Family Health, serving Morgan and Logan counties
- Tri-County Health Network, serving San Miguel, Montrose, Ouray and Delta counties
- Summit Community Care Clinic, serving Lake, Park and Summit counties
- Mountain Family Health Center, serving Garfield and Eagle counties.

SMILES Dental Project -- Spanning Miles In Linking Everyone to Services -- is a community-based initiative designed to expand access to oral health care for Colorado's most vulnerable populations. The project relies on a hub-and-spoke model to integrate Registered Dental Hygienists (RDHs) into community settings such as community centers, schools, Head Start programs, nursing homes and assisted living facilities where they provide routine, preventive dental services. The RDHs communicate with a "hub" dentist via telehealth technology for patient assessments, treatment planning and to facilitate treatment for patients identified with more complex dental health needs.

As many as half of all Coloradans – most of whom live in low-income or rural communities with dental workforce shortages – don't receive routine, preventive oral health care and are therefore unable to conveniently access dental care in the traditional manner. The SMILES Dental Project is designed to address barriers to care and increase dental care utilization among those most in need.

SMILES Dental Project is funded jointly by Caring for Colorado Foundation and the Colorado Health Foundation. For more information visit: www.caringforcolorado.org and www.caringforcolorado.blogspot.com



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About Caring for Colorado Foundation

Caring for Colorado is a grantmaking foundation dedicated to improving the health and health care of the people of Colorado. We are a non-profit, 501(c)(4) organization and our board of directors is appointed by the Governor of Colorado. Together with our partners, we are committed to improving health systems, focusing on population health and prevention and working to solve the most pressing health needs of vulnerable and underserved populations in the state. The foundation serves as a catalyst, building consensus and coalitions to create sustainable health system improvements.

About the Colorado Health Foundation

The Colorado Health Foundation works to make Colorado the healthiest state in the nation by ensuring that all Colorado kids are fit and healthy and that all Coloradans achieve stable, affordable and adequate health coverage to improve their health with support from a network of primary health care and community services. To advance our mission, the Foundation engages the community through grantmaking, public policy and advocacy, private sector engagement, strategic communications, evaluation for learning and assessment and by operating primary care residency training programs. For more information, please visit www.ColoradoHealth.org