



The State Office of Rural Health

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Matthew Enquist, Outreach Manager
303-832-7493 or me@coruralhealth.org

2016 Colorado Rural Health Center Annual Report Released

The report profiles innovative approaches to addressing the unique challenges faced by rural health facilities in 2016 and beyond

Aurora, Colo. – November 14, 2017 – The Colorado Rural Health Center recently released its Annual Report detailing the work of the non-profit organization in its efforts to enhance healthcare services in the state by providing information, education, linkages, tools, and energy toward addressing rural health issues.

The Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC) is Colorado's nonprofit State Office of Rural Health. CRHC works with Federal, state and local partners to offer services and resources to rural healthcare providers, facilities and communities.

The report provides an overview of the accomplishments of Colorado's State Office of Rural Health in its work addressing the needs of Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs), Rural clinics and other rural and safety net providers across the state.

In 2016, Colorado's rural facilities received vital assistance addressing workforce shortages through direct recruitment services and retention training. Hospitals and clinics were the beneficiaries of quality improvement and administrative education including Healthy Clinic Assessments, educational and networking conferences, oral health integration education, hands-on billing and coding boot camps, public health data reporting, funding for first responders, in-depth and informative webinars, and a full suite of Health Information Technology services.

Key 2016 accomplishments featured in the report include an average overall Healthy Clinic Assessment score of 85% and a 19% overall increase in visit prep for participating clinics. Additionally, the Colorado Resource for Emergency and Trauma Education (CREATE) program funded 88 new national registered EMTS providers and awarded over half a million dollars for education. Hospitals and clinics benefitted from 341 hours of Information technology support in areas as diverse and patch management support to remote monitoring. Additionally, CRHC's policy and advocacy team saw a 996% increase in member participation in policy efforts from 2015.

CRHC's flagship quality improvement program, Improving Communications and Readmissions (iCARE) continued its work with hospitals and clinics across the state. The three primary goals of CRHC's iCARE

program are to work with hospitals and clinics to improve communications in transitions of care, improve the clinical process and systems to reduce readmissions, particularly for heart failure, pneumonia, and diabetic patients, and to maintain low readmission rates. In 2016, 55 clinic/hospital teams from more than 20 rural counties around the state worked together to address a shared goal that will help to improve operational or clinical processes in facilities and communities. Additionally, 78% of patients who receive care at iCARE participating clinics demonstrate good control of blood glucose levels, compared to 55% of Medicaid patients nationally.

For further information or details about the Colorado Rural Health Center and its work, visit <http://coruralhealth.org/> or contact Matt Enquist at me@coruralhealth.org

About The Colorado Rural Health Center

The Colorado Rural Health Center was established in 1991 as Colorado's State Office of Rural Health. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, CRHC serves dual roles as the State Office of Rural Health with the mission of assisting rural communities in addressing healthcare issues; and as the State Rural Health Association, advocating for policy change to ensure that rural Coloradoans have access to comprehensive, affordable healthcare services of the highest quality. For more information visit www.coruralhealth.org, call 303-832-7493, or call toll free 800-851-6782 from rural Colorado.

###