

In 2002 Caring for Colorado Foundation (CFC) launched a 5-year, \$5 million Oral Health Improvement Project with the goals of strengthening Colorado's oral health safety net and preventing oral disease in children. Upon completion of its five years of funding for this initiative in 2006, 44 organizations serving communities throughout Colorado received grant funding under this special initiative. This effort, together with other CFC funding in the area of oral health, makes CFC's total commitment to increasing access to oral health care in Colorado at \$7,574,310 since it began its grantmaking in 2001.

In July of 2006, the foundation's Board of Directors approved Phase II of the Oral Health Improvement Project by allocating another \$5 million over a five-year period beginning in 2007. The 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.

Since beginning its grant program in 2001, Caring for Colorado has awarded more than \$34 million in communities across Colorado to increase access to care for underserved populations. In addition to oral health, the foundation supports programs to address community-identified needs including mental health, physical health, prevention and access to care.

For more information, visit Caring for Colorado's website at www.caringforcolorado.org, or contact the foundation at 720-524-0770 or toll-free at 1- 800-463-7713. Specific questions regarding Caring for Colorado's funding priorities for oral health should be directed to Linda Reiner, Director of Planning and Evaluation at 720-524-0770 or lreiner@caringforcolorado.org. The foundation will issue a Request for Proposals in the Spring of 2007 with a grant application deadline of June 29, 2007.

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