



NEWS RELEASE

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Colorado Beacon Consortium Awarded \$11.8 Million for Health Information Technology Pilot Project

(GRAND JUNCTION, Colo.) – The Colorado Beacon Consortium has been awarded \$11,878,279 to implement a health information technology pilot project in Western Colorado. The award was announced this morning in Washington D.C., by Vice President Joe Biden and Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius.

The Colorado Beacon Consortium is made up of executive-level representation from four mission-driven, not-for-profit, Western Colorado-based organizations, all of which have a nationally-acknowledged track record of coordination to achieve superior outcomes. They include Mesa County Physicians Independent Practice Association, Quality Health Network, Rocky Mountain Health Plans and St. Mary's Regional Medical Center. A representative from each organization sits on the Colorado Beacon Consortium's Executive Committee, along with a consumer representative-at-large.

The funds from the grant will be used to enable robust collection of clinical data from health systems, providers, and hospitals in order to improve the quality of health care and patient experiences with the system, while reducing costs.

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Colorado Beacon Consortium Awarded Grant
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Western Colorado's award is one of 15 Health IT pilot communities receiving grants totaling \$220 million. The awards are funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. They are part of a \$2 billion effort to achieve widespread meaningful use of health IT and provide for the use of electronic health records for each person in the United States by 2014.

The Colorado Beacon Consortium's mission is to optimize the efficiency, quality, and performance of our health care system, and integrate the delivery of care and use of clinical information to improve community health. The geographic focus of the Consortium's activities includes the Colorado counties of Mesa, Delta, Montrose, Garfield, Gunnison, Pitkin, and Rio Blanco.

"We are excited about this grant and eager to build upon Western Colorado's reputation as an innovative pioneer that serves as an example of effective collaboration among community-based, not-for-profit health care organizations and service agencies," said Steve ErkenBrack, Colorado Beacon Consortium Executive Committee member and president and CEO, Rocky Mountain Health Plans.

"The Beacon Grant is affirmation of the leadership and vision by health care community leaders in Western Colorado," said Dick Thompson, CEO of Quality Health Network. "We appreciate this opportunity and look forward to sharing our progress with the nation."

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