

Insert Foundation info here

To _____

In light of the COVID-19 Pandemic impacting the nation and the world, CRHC continues to support Colorado's most vulnerable populations by disseminating resources, providing vital information and updates and advocating on behalf of the rural safety net – critical access hospitals and rural health clinics of Colorado. During this time of great turmoil, these safety-net facilities (who are already financially and resource vulnerable due to their fragile infrastructure, including low operating margins, high proportions of uninsured and low income patients, and limited workforce) are concerned about their ability to continue operations or recover from a situation like this. In addition,

- There are 52 RHCs in Colorado, which serve approximately 250,000 unique patients per year with over 630,560 annual visits.
- RHCs receive no set federal funding
- There are 13 rural counties in Colorado that don't have a FQHCs but DO have RHCs
- There are 13 rural counties in Colorado that don't have a hospital

We understand that many healthcare providers across the state are feeling overwhelmed at this time, however we believe there is a specific need to support rural primary care providers with their efforts to continue to care for their patients.

Below are some of the specific things that rural healthcare facilities are lacking during this time:

- Adequate staffing
 - General exasperated shortage due to providers and support staff home sick, quarantined, having immune compromising conditions or caring for their children/other family in need
 - Specially trained to handle ventilators and other emergency preparedness equipment/materials
 - Additional triage
- Telehealth infrastructure
 - Direct funding to support purchase of equipment, platforms, broadband
 - Broadband adequacy
- Equipment
 - Remote patient monitoring
 - Makeshift quarantine infrastructure
 - Drive up triage infrastructure
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for patients and staff
 - Ventilators

- Respirators
- Hand sanitizer
- Face shields
- Gloves
- N95 masks
- Anesthesia machines
- Gowns
- COVID-19 testing kits and lab capacity

Philanthropy in Colorado continues to be a valuable resource during this pandemic and while we are extremely grateful for the check-ins and flexibility for already funded programs, we ask that you consider providing direct funding to these rural providers who are trying to find innovative ways to support patients during this time. We were pleased to see that Community Health Centers have been provided with significant funding at a federal level as they are a large and important piece of the safety net. As we all know, our healthcare system works best when all parts of the system supporting the underserved get support. If funding is available, CRHC can help determine facilities that are most in need and who is equipped to implement the funding right away. As always, CRHC will provide whatever support is needed for you and our members.

Thank you,