

PRESSRELEASE



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**DENVER REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS AWARDED \$4.5 MILLION IN FUNDING FROM
CENTERS FOR MEDICAID AND MEDICARE SERVICES**

DENVER – The Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) has been awarded \$4.5 million from the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) to bridge the gap between clinical and community service providers. Known as the Accountable Health Communities model, this innovative approach will strengthen the network of health and social providers to better assist Medicare and Medicaid recipients.

The CMS Innovation Center awarded \$120 million to 32 organizations across the nation to participate in the Accountable Health Communities model over a five-year period, beginning May 1. DRCOG will use the \$4.5 million to serve as a hub for 16 regional partners addressing health-related social needs including housing instability, food insecurity, domestic violence and transportation.

By addressing these social needs, the model aims to reduce unnecessary healthcare use and spending by improving health outcomes and quality of care for patients. DRCOG will also coordinate and monitor providers to ensure responsiveness.

“This is an exciting opportunity to demonstrate the benefits of building a bridge between health care providers and community partners,” said Jayla Sanchez-Warren, director of DRCOG’s Area Agency on Aging. “Social determinants play a huge part in patient outcomes. We and our partners expect not only to deliver positive results, but at the same time collect and report data that will inform health care approaches for years to come.”

During the five-year period, clinical and community partners will report on services provided and patient outcomes – data that will help inform best practices for the industry in the future.

“We know that innovation at the state and community level is essential to improve health outcomes and lower costs. In this model, we will support community-based innovation to deliver local solutions that address a broader array of health-related needs of people across the country,” said Dr. Patrick Conway, CMS deputy administrator for Innovation and Quality.

The Denver Regional Council of Governments is a planning organization where local governments collaborate to establish guidelines, set policy and allocate funding in the areas of:

- ***Transportation and personal mobility***
- ***Growth and development***
- ***Aging and disability resources***

The Accountable Health Communities Model is authorized under Section 1115A of the Social Security Act, which established the Innovation Center to test innovative payment and service delivery models to reduce Medicare, Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program expenditures while maintaining or enhancing the quality of beneficiaries' care.

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