

OVER THE PASS



"I'd like Raton to prosper. People say there's not much that can be done. I'd like someone to stand up or bring something to the table. We need something to draw travelers so we can have a healthy community."

– Samuel Perez, RHS junior (Raton)



TRINIDAD-RATON CONNECTION

"What would you like to see change in 2015?"

By Tim Keller
Correspondent
The Chronicle-News

"I'd like to see even greater cooperation between the city and county to continue moving us forward economically. They might, for example, make a lasting financial commitment to an annual Santa Fe Trail festival."

– John Schecter, manager, DigiCare Hearing Solutions and Secretary, Trinidad Chamber of Commerce (Trinidad)



"Our involvement in the Middle East, with peace for everyone involved. Our Lord's help is all we can ask."

– Kathy Muniz, retired nurse (Raton)



"World peace for sure. All this stuff going on with ISIS and all the terrorists, I'd like to see it all end. When you have kids, you worry."

– Nina Duran, retired nurse's aide (Trinidad)

"A societal and cultural shift with more value placed on self-reliance in our society, a stronger sense of individual responsibility."

– Rick Jones, Maxwell (NM) Schools English/VoAg teacher (Trinidad)



"Have a better community with more stores, like a Walmart and clothing stores like Ross Dress for Less. I really liked City Market."

– Jessica Hinojos (Raton)

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT FUNDING

HHS awards \$65 million to Colorado to test plan to improve health care quality, accessibility, affordability

U.S. Health and Human Services
Special to The Chronicle-News

Colorado will receive up to \$65 million to implement and test health care payment and service delivery models that will improve health care quality and lower costs according to Secretary of Health and Human Services Sylvia M. Burwell.

Colorado's State Health Care Innovation Plan, entitled "The Colorado Framework," creates a system of clinic-based and public health supports to spur innovation. The state will improve the health of Coloradans by: (1) providing access to integrated primary care and behavioral health services in coordinated community systems; (2) applying value-based payment structures; (3) expanding information technology efforts, including telehealth; and (4) finalizing a statewide plan to improve population health.

Funding will assist Colorado in integrating physical and behavioral health care in more than 400 primary care practices and community mental health centers comprised of approximately 1,600 primary care providers. In addition, the state will work to establish a partnership between their public health, behavioral health and primary care sectors.

"We are committed to partnering with Colorado to advance the goals we all share: better care, smarter spending, and, ultimately, healthier people," said Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell. "We're seeing states do some very innovative things when it comes to improving the ways we deliver care, pay providers, and distribute information. These funds will support Colorado in integrating and coordinating the many elements of health care – including Medicaid, Medicare, public health, and private health care delivery systems – to the benefit of patients, businesses, and taxpayers alike."

Nationwide, 28 states, three territories and the District of Columbia will receive over \$665 million in Affordable Care Act funding to design and test health

care payment and service delivery models that will improve health care quality and lower costs. Together with awards released in early 2013, over half of states (34 states and 3 territories and the District of Columbia), representing nearly two thirds of the population are participating in comprehensive state-based innovation in health system transformation.

States will engage a broad group of stakeholders including health care providers and systems, long-term service and support providers, commercial payers, state hospital and medical associations, tribal communities and consumer advocacy organizations. Transformation efforts supported by this initiative must improve health, improve care and lower costs for Medicare, Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) beneficiaries.

In addition, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will identify best practices among state-led transformations that are potentially scalable to all states.

The State Innovation Models initiative is one part of an overall effort to help lower costs and improve care through the Affordable Care Act. Initiatives like Accountable Care Organizations, the Partnership for Patients and others have helped reduce hospital readmissions in Medicare by nearly 8 percent between 2007 and 2013 – translating into 150,000 fewer readmissions – and quality improvements have resulted in saving 50,000 lives and \$12 billion in health spending from 2010 to 2013, according to preliminary estimates. Descriptions and project data are estimates provided by the state and are based on budget submissions required by the State Innovation Models initiative application process.

For more information on the awards announced today, please go to: <http://innovation.cms.gov/initiatives/State-Innovations/>. To learn more about other innovative models being tested by the CMS Innovation Center, please visit: innovation.cms.gov.





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