



*The State Office of Rural Health*

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Contact: Matthew Enquist, Outreach Manager  
303-832-7493 or me@coruralhealth.org

## **Colorado Rural Health Center Releases 2017 Annual Report**

*The report profiles innovative approaches to addressing the unique challenges faced by rural health facilities in 2017 and beyond*

**Aurora, Colo. – November 13, 2018–** The Colorado Rural Health Center recently released its Annual Report cataloging a successful year working to enhance healthcare services in the state by providing information, education, linkages, tools, and energy toward addressing rural health issues.

The Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC) is Colorado's nonprofit State Office of Rural Health and Rural Health Association. CRHC works with Federal, state and local partners to offer services and resources to rural healthcare providers, facilities and communities.

CRHC's CEO, Michelle Mills is proud of the work done to support rural communities in Colorado, noting that the report provides an overview of the accomplishments of Colorado's State Office of Rural Health and Rural Health Association. This year's report summarizes the mission of the organization, its work with hospitals, clinics, and EMS providers on quality, Health Information Technology (HIT), policy, and workforce issues.

Key 2017 accomplishments featured in the report include seven Healthy Clinic Assessments (HCAs) conducted across the state leading to quantifiable improvements in clinic processes. Educational webinars benefited 214 viewers with technical assistance. The organization's Improving Communications and Readmissions (iCARE) program saw participating critical access hospitals (CAHs) reporting an average readmission rate of just 3%, a 35% decrease since 2013. CRHC's Colorado Resource for Emergency and Trauma Education (CREATE) program awarded over half a million dollars for education for the state's first responders.

CRHC continued its commitment to the IT needs of its members, providing 375 hours of direct HIT support in areas including State Innovation Model support, remote monitoring, Exchange migration, HIPAA risk assessments, and server installation and maintenance. Members also benefited from 340 hours of HIT report writing.

The organization also had another strong year advocating for the needs of its members on the state and federal governmental levels. CRHC's policy team testified six times in support or opposition to bills while sending out action alerts and keeping members informed. The workforce team placed 5 providers at

facilities in some of the most underserved areas of the state. Finally, CRHC continued its commitment to education by holding two conferences, four coding bootcamps, and hosting webinars for 835 participants focused on improving the use of their Electronic Medical Records (EMRs).

For further information or details about the Colorado Rural Health Center and its work, visit <http://coruralhealth.org/> or contact Matt Enquist at [me@coruralhealth.org](mailto:me@coruralhealth.org)

#### **About The Colorado Rural Health Center**

The Colorado Rural Health Center was established in 1991 as Colorado's State Office of Rural Health. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, CRHC serves dual roles as the State Office of Rural Health with the mission of assisting rural communities in addressing healthcare issues; and as the State Rural Health Association, advocating for policy change to ensure that rural Coloradoans have access to comprehensive, affordable healthcare services of the highest quality. For more information visit [www.coruralhealth.org](http://www.coruralhealth.org), call 303-832-7493, or call toll free 800-851-6782 from rural Colorado.

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