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As the Nation Celebrates EMS Week, the Colorado Rural Health Center Announces Funding from Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment for Emergency and Trauma Education

Funds will assist private and public organizations in improving and expanding the emergency medical and trauma system in Colorado

Denver, CO –The Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC) today announced it has been awarded \$2.5 million to manage the Colorado Resource for Emergency and Trauma Education (CREATE) program, which provides education and training for emergency medical and trauma service providers working in Colorado.

The award was issued by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), as part of Colorado Senate Bill 34 – an emergency medical and trauma services (EMTS) grant program that began in 1989 – which is now governed under Colorado Revised Statute (CRS) Sec. 1,25-3.5-60.

“CRHC has managed the CREATE program since 2012 and we are excited to continue our partnership with CDPHE to ensure first responders and EMTS providers continue to receive the training they need to support Colorado’s emergency response infrastructure,” says Michelle Mills, CRHC’s chief executive officer.

“National EMS Week is the perfect opportunity to highlight efforts in Colorado that support EMTS providers and recognize our state’s men and women in the EMS profession for their dedication toward what it means to be EMS Strong,” explains Mills.

The CREATE program is designed to assist public and private EMTS across the state with a 50 percent cash match grant for continuing education and initial training, exclusive to emergency and trauma education.

“A wide range of EMTS providers have applied for funding through the CREATE program,” Mills adds. Eligible entities include ambulance services, fire and rescue

agencies, state and local governing agencies, training facilities, hospitals, clinics, special districts and other public and private providers of EMTS.

In the last 3 years 980 providers have received CREATE funding, with over 1,101 applications submitted and over \$1.5 million in grant funds distributed.

In 2014, CREATE supported 68 new Nationally Registered EMTs and 36 new Nationally Registered Paramedics serving in Colorado. In addition, program results indicate that 55 percent of EMTS providers funded by CREATE are volunteer providers, with over 90 percent of all grantees reporting that it would be difficult to meet education and training expectations and requirements if funding support through CREATE was not available.

“The need and impact are clearly demonstrated and CDPHE is dedicated to supporting and improving the EMTS system in Colorado,” added Eric Schmidt, EMTS Funding Section Manager.

CRHC in partnership with CDPHE plans to continue statewide outreach efforts, ensuring the EMTS community has the resources, training, and education, they need to support the health and wellbeing of Colorado residents.

CREATE accepts applications on an ongoing basis and must be submitted to CRHC and not the general grant program administered by CDPHE. For further information, visit, <http://coruralhealth.org/create>. To learn more about CDPHE visit, <https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/>. To learn about National EMS Week, visit <http://www.acep.org/emsweek/>.

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's 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, call 303-832-7493, or call toll free 800-851-6782 from rural Colorado.

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