

## State at a Glance: Colorado

### Overview

In February 2010, the [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services \(CMS\)](#) awarded grants to 10 States under a 5-year, \$100 million effort to improve health care quality and delivery systems for children enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Funded by the [Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009 \(CHIPRA\)](#), the [Quality Demonstration Grant Program](#) aims to identify effective, replicable strategies for enhancing quality of care for children. Because some grantee States are partnering with other States, the grants will support the implementation and evaluation of quality improvement strategies for children in a total of 18 States under five broad categories.<sup>1</sup>

As one of the 10 grantees, Colorado is partnering with **New Mexico** to implement projects in two of the five grant categories:

- Implementing a more comprehensive provider-based model of service delivery.
- Testing an approach to quality improvement of the State's own design.

### Colorado's Objectives

Colorado is working to help school-based health centers (SBHCs) improve the quality of preventive and treatment services they provide to children and adolescents, coordinate more seamlessly with other providers in the community, and further engage students in their health and health care.

#### *Assessing a Provider-Based Model of Care*

In conjunction with its partner State, Colorado is helping selected SBHCs define and achieve quality improvement goals. Participating SBHCs will complete a medical home assessment and conduct a student survey to identify areas for improvement. Colorado will hire and support quality improvement coaches who will work with the SBHCs to develop and implement a quality improvement strategy tailored to each center.

Colorado also is working with New Mexico on strategies to increase the delivery of preventive services (e.g., immunizations and the [Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment \(EPSDT\)](#) program) and the management of certain conditions (e.g., obesity, depression). The quality improvement coaches will work with SBHCs to implement these strategies and develop or improve their existing systems for tracking and reporting on these services and conditions.

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<sup>1</sup> The five categories are projects that (1) show how a core set of children's quality measures can be used to improve quality of care for children, (2) promote the use of health information technology to enhance service quality and care coordination, (3) implement new or more comprehensive provider-based models of service delivery, (4) demonstrate the impact of a model electronic health record format for children, and (5) test an approach to quality improvement of a State's own design.

*Testing a Quality Improvement Approach of Colorado's Own Design*

Colorado is supporting selected SBHCs in efforts to increase youth engagement in their health and health care by improving students' health literacy and helping them manage their care across health care settings. The State collaborated with New Mexico to develop a survey, the Youth Assessment of School Health Involvement, which SBHCs will use to assess youth engagement at the beginning and near the end of the program.

### **Evaluation Questions**

The national evaluation team will be gathering information from Colorado to address a wide range of questions about the implementation and outcomes of its efforts, including:

- How did Colorado select and develop working relationships with participating SBHCs?
- To what extent were the SBHCs successful in improving use of preventive services?
- Did youth who received services from participating SBHCs report more engagement in their health and health care at the end of the school year compared with its beginning?
- What are the key lessons from Colorado's experience that would be useful for other States?

### **Learn More**

This information is current as of March 2012, slightly more than 2 years after grant award. To learn more about the projects that Colorado is implementing under the CHIPRA Quality Demonstration Grant Program, please contact:

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To learn more about the national evaluation of the CHIPRA Quality Demonstration Grant Program, visit the evaluation's Web page at <http://www.ahrq.gov/chipra/demoeval>.