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CDHS Announces Colorado Community Response Grants for Teller County

(Denver) – The Office of Early Childhood at the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) has announced that Teller County, in partnership with Community Partnership Family Resource Center, will be receiving \$75,000 in grant funding from a new program to prevent child maltreatment and abuse.

Included as part of Governor Hickenlooper’s “Keeping Kids Safe and Families Healthy 2.0” child welfare plan, the Colorado Community Response program is awarding grants to provide additional resources to families who are not currently involved in the child welfare system but are still at potential risk for incidents of child abuse or maltreatment.

Starting in January, in addition to Teller County, 13 counties and their partners will receive a total of \$728,000 in funding to pilot the Colorado Community Response program:

- Arapahoe County, in partnership with Douglas County and Tri-County Health Department, serving Arapahoe and Douglas counties;
- Boulder County, in partnership with Sister Carmen Community Center and City of Longmont Children Youth and Services;
- Chaffee County;
- Eagle County, in partnership with Eagle County School District;
- Larimer County, in partnership with The Matthews House;
- Mesa County, in partnership with Hilltop Community Resources;
- Montrose County, in partnership with Hilltop Community Resources;
- Otero County, in partnership with Tri-County Family Care Center, serving Otero, Bent and Crowley counties;
- Washington County, in partnership with Washington County Connections and Rural Communities Resource Center, serving Washington and Yuma counties.

“We are very excited about the opportunities that this voluntary program offers, as it will allow us to better engage and support families to help prevent child abuse and neglect,” said Mary Anne Snyder, director, Office of Early Childhood. “The pilot sites represent a diverse spectrum of counties and should make a meaningful impact in both urban and rural communities.”

In Colorado, approximately 55% of child welfare referrals are screened out following a maltreatment report. These families generally do not receive further outreach or support, yet research shows that

while an immediate safety risk may not be present, many screened out families are still in need of services. The Colorado Community Response program is designed to increase the availability of community support for families through parenting skills and access to community services.

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